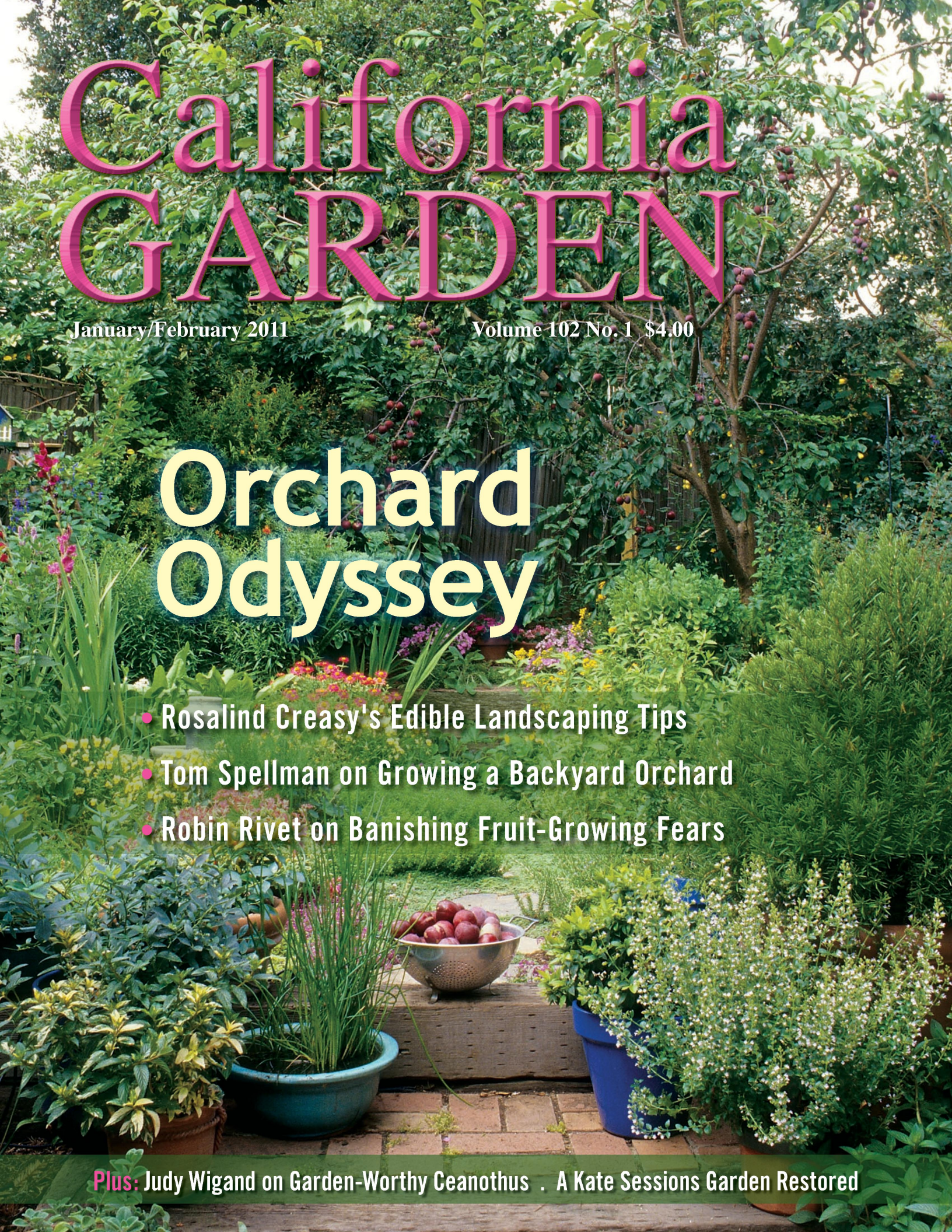
California GARDEN

January/February 2011 Volume 102 No. 1 $4.00



Orchard Odyssey

- Rosalind Creasy's Edible Landscaping Tips
- Tom Spellman on Growing a Backyard Orchard
- Robin Rivet on Banishing Fruit-Growing Fears

Plus: Judy Wigand on Garden-Worthy Ceanothus . A Kate Sessions Garden Restored

CHERYL TALL - WORK IN PROGRESS PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Through the Eyes of an Artist

Saturday, February 12, 10 AM – 4 PM

Celebrating Sculpture in the Garden, an exhibit running to mid-April

Panel Discussions
Recognizing the Value of Art in the Garden

Session One: 11 AM – 12 NOON
Artists: Alber de Matteis and Charles Bronson
Garden designers: Debra Lee Baldwin and Patrick Anderson

Session Two: 2 – 3 PM
Artists: Becky Guttin and Cheryl Tall
Garden Designers: Peter Jones and Bobbi Hirschkoff

Hourly Tours of the Sculptures 10 AM – 3 PM
Music Provided by Willowood
Lunch from the Garden's Coffee Hut

For Kids 10 AM – 2 PM (and the young at heart): Make a community sculpture using recycled material, inspired by Rodney McCoubrey of Rodrigo's Recyled Art.

Cost: free with admission or membership

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

www.SDBGarden.org

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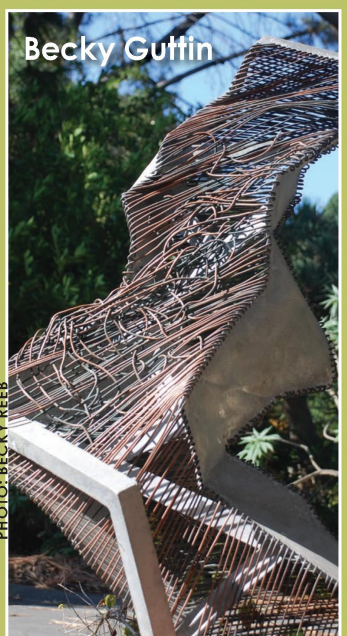
PHOTO: HERB KNUFKEN



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SPECIAL THANKS
Now is the Time contributors

A 'Satsuma' plum is the anchor and focal point of Rosalind Creasy's backyard "Plum Garden." In front is an herb garden with dozens of plants in pots and even growing between stepping stones. Photo by Rosalind Creasy.

We welcome articles, photographs, drawings and ideas. Deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of materials. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. We ask that submissions be email attachments in Microsoft Word documents, or sent to us on a CD. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

January/February 2011, Volume 102, Number 1

DIG IN

Winter Classes	3
February 16 Meeting	3
Debunking Rose Myths	4
Evergreen Pear	5
Favorite Tool: Plastic Spray Tank	5
Well Celebrated: Kate O. Sessions	6
Did You Know … Forecast for Winter is Dry and Cold	6
The Ergo Gardner	7

FEATURES

Growing Grounds	8
Judy's Perennials	10
A Simple Floral Design for Valentine's Day—and Beyond	12
An Historic Garden Unearthed	14
Roots - Profiles in Horticultural History: Theodore Payne	16
Plan, Prune, Tend and Enjoy!	22
An Orchard in the Garden	25
Got Lizards? Fight Fruit Fears	27
Exotic Weevil Threatens Local Palms	28

REGULARS

Now is the Time	18
Calendar	29
Affiliate List	33
From the Archives	36

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairperson, please contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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President's Letter

As I write this letter to our members, I am still feeling in awe of the San Diego Floral Association's celebration with SOHO and Friends of Balboa Park of Kate Sessions Nov. 8 birthday. The event took place Nov. 6 at the 1905 George Marston House and Gardens, which are very near the property leased to Kate at 6th and Upas in 1892 for an experimental nursery and garden. That venture eventually provided hundreds of trees for Balboa Park and spurred Kate's career as a distinguished horticulturist.

Toward the end of her life, Kate Sessions was honored at the Pasadena Flower Show with the Frank N. Meyer Medal for her outstanding work in flower and plant introduction. She was the first woman to be honored in this way.

San Diego Floral Association will always be grateful that this remarkable woman was a part of our organization for more than 30 years and made regular contributions to our magazine. I hope that you will highlight your calendar for next year to be a part of our now annual celebration of her birthday and her amazing contributions to our city.

California Garden is entering its 102nd year of publication, and we are proud of our practical, beautiful magazine that looks to the future and remembers the past. In its pages this month, you will enjoy a story on a Kate Sessions' canyon garden that was recently restored.

Our own Nancy Carol Carter will continue our tribute to Kate Session at our regular member meeting on Feb. 16. She has planned a unique program on "Kate Sessions and the Arts & Crafts Garden." I encourage you to join us and continue to add to your knowledge of Kate's widespread influence on so many aspects of the California garden. We are honored to have Nancy share her expertise and passion as a historian of all things "Kate Sessions." Join us for what will be another fine afternoon in lovely Balboa Park with San Diego Floral.

Sandra Dysart

Sandra N. Dysart

Photo: Ruth Hayward

SDFA President Sandra N. Dysart (left) joins the Kate Sessions' birthday celebration with board member Thea Gurns.

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

WINTER CLASSES

CREATE SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHILE HONING BASIC DESIGN SKILLS

FEBRUARY 10
Review Basics of Floral Arranging: Class 1

This class will emphasize the basics of floral arranging while students create a seasonal design. Please bring flower clippers or a knife, containers and plant material to the class.

FEBRUARY 17
Review Basics of Floral Arranging: Class 2

Using techniques learned in the first class, students will make a seasonal table arrangement. Please bring flower clippers or a knife, containers and plant material to class.

Instructor: Kathy Taylor de Murillo
Kathy Taylor de Murillo is a native of southern California who has lived in San Diego for 25 years. She joined Bonita Valley Garden Club in 1991 and began studying floral design to enter flower shows. She has continued through the years to study and teach floral design classes. She has been an active member of the San Diego Floral Association Flower Arranger's Guild for many years and participates in Art Alive at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Cost: Single class is $12 ($10 for SDFA members)
Cost for both classes is $16 ($14 SDFA members)

All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers.

To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes are limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

Call the Floral Association office weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 619-232-5762 for more information about SDFA workshops.

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Presently the SDFA is distributing its newsletter through the US mail. This distribution has become very costly to our organization.

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February 16 Meeting

Nancy Carol Carter on "Kate Sessions and the Arts & Crafts Garden"

Gardens created by San Diego horticulturist Kate O. Sessions are prime examples of the Arts & Crafts movement in San Diego, but what is an Arts & Crafts garden?

The program for the February 16 meeting of the San Diego Floral Association explores that question in a talk by Nancy Carol Carter, the association's immediate past president and a horticultural historian. Carter will use many photographs and pictures to trace the Arts & Crafts movement from its origins and Gothic inspiration in England all the way to the gardens of Southern California.

The program and general meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Members and guests are welcome to attend. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

The Arts & Crafts movement was a reaction to the British Industrial Revolution, drew inspiration from the ideas of John Ruskin, and found expression in the creativity of William Morris. The influence of Arts & Crafts on English gardens will be shown by looking at the work of William Robinson and the collaboration of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll and architect Edwin Lutyens.

The role of Elbert Hubbard and Gustav Stickley in bringing Arts and Crafts ideas to the United States also will be explored, especially, the influence of Stickley's *Craftsman* magazine in spreading the philosophy and practice of the movement in the United States. The westward progress of Arts & Crafts across America is followed through the architectural work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Greene and Greene, and finally, in San Diego, Irving Gill.

Historic photographs will illustrate how Kate Sessions perfected the Arts & Crafts garden form in San Diego while teaming with Irving Gill and other leading architects.

Nancy Carol Carter studies and writes about horticultural history. As a volunteer at the San Diego Floral Association and the San Diego History Center, she is compiling a comprehensive bibliography of writings by and about Kate Olivia Sessions, an early San Diego horticulturist. She has published on Sessions, other influential horticulturists and on the history of Balboa Park. She is a regular contributor to *California Garden* and serves as an associate editor of the magazine.

Dig In!

News, tips, advice and products you can use

Debunking Rose Myths

The Queen of Flowers is Not a Royal Pain in the Garden

By Aenne Carver

January brings visions of roses to gardeners. Nurseries are flooded with bare root roses, and it is pruning time for established roses. Yet many good gardeners secretly feel overwhelmed by the thought of growing roses. Ironically, the abundance of classes on growing roses sometimes adds to fears that roses are tricky.

Push your anxiety aside because roses are tough–and amazingly easy to cultivate. In ghost towns, roses grow though neglected for decades. Tombstone, Arizona, has the world's largest rose: planted in 1885, it currently covers 8,000 square feet. It is unlikely Wild West gunfighters gave this rose special, or time consuming treatment.

Here are some myths about roses debunked.

Myth one: **You must prune roses properly, and perfectly.** Don't be afraid to simply whack the rose back. Keep in mind the objective is to reshape the rose, not to be graded by fellow gardeners. Prune away crisscrossing canes, and remove any small, spindly canes.

Furthermore, if winter pruning is overlooked, your rose won't die. Instead, your rose may flower earlier because it won't have to recover from a hard pruning. The downside of missing winter pruning is that your rose may sprawl. However, if you prune lightly and continuously during the growing season, your rose will recover a pleasing shape.

Myth two: **Roses need lots of fertilizer, complicated tonics, and specially formulated elixirs.** Admittedly, to get roses worthy of a blue ribbon at the fair, you might need frequent application of fertilizer. However, most gardeners just want their roses to stay healthy and ornament the garden. To achieve this, you can get by with a less regimented feeding schedule. Surprisingly, roses thrive when fed monthly or even bimonthly during the growing season.

When choosing a fertilizer, keep in mind that roses don't require specially designed rose food. To thrive, roses need nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, and their bloom can be prompted by high levels of phosphorous. Consequently, any fertilizer with a high phosphorous content prompts flowers. Knowing this frees you to buy any super bloom or high phosphorous fertilizer on sale. The second number in the sequence on the fertilizer label indicates the phosphorous content, so pick accordingly.

If you garden organically and have enriched your soil, you can fertilize even less. Many companies, such as Dr. Earth, make organic rose food and these can be applied every other month during the growing season.

Experts recommend rose fertilizers because they contain additional nutrients these flowers enjoy, such as magnesium and calcium. What a rose really needs is soil rich in organic matter, six hours of sun per day, and regular water in summer heat.

Myth three: **Roses are susceptible to diseases and insects.** Again, this is fiction. Modern roses have been hybridized to be disease resistant. Moreover, San Diego County's climate prevents the top three things that plague roses in other parts of the country: extreme cold, black spot and Japanese beetles.

However, your roses may get aphids in spring, or they may develop some rust or powdery mildew late in the summer. These pests and problems should be short-lived in healthy roses. If you have a rose that continually has such issues, then, dig it up. Replace it with a robust rose, less prone to such problems. Life is too short for a fussy plant.

Myth four: **Roses are water hogs.** Fortunately for water-restricted San Diegans, roses need less water than once believed. It is true that without supplemental water in the summer, roses lose leaves and refuse to bloom. To prevent this, water twice a week deeply in summer, and provide a thick mulch to hold in the moisture. Such limited watering prevents leaf loss, and the rose will bloom again as the weather cools.

In selecting a new rose, try to choose one known for its drought tolerance. 'Cecile Brunner' and Lady Banks (*Rosa banksia*) are old-fashioned climbers that are low maintenance, pest free, and can survive on winter rains alone. Oddly, even hybrid tea roses can get by with less water than is usually prescribed, although they may be less floriferous.

'Iceberg' roses require even less water than hybrid teas, as do small sized David Austin's English roses, like 'Perdita', 'Anne Boleyn', or 'Fair Bianca'. 'Perdita' is especially drought-tolerant.

Beneath the rose's false reputation for being high maintenance, there actually lies a carefree plant. Oh, by the way, if someone wants to give you high praise for all the hours it appears you must have invested in your beautifully abundant roses, let them. The fact that it was hardly any work at all will just be our little secret.

– Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com.

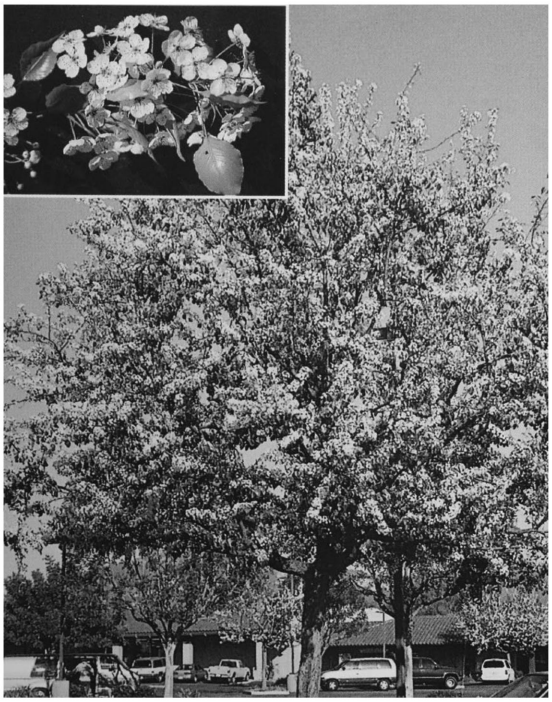
Trees of Balboa Park:

Evergreen Pear (*Pyrus kawakamii*)

These small round trees growing in Balboa Park rarely exceed 25 feet in height. The dark brown bark is deeply furrowed. The "Evergreen Pears" are not evergreen at all; they drop their leaves briefly in the winter. The fall leaf color is gold and orange. After the leaves drop, the flowers begin to develop. White flower clusters develop at the branch tips and blanket the ground with small white petals. Each flower is 3/4 inch across. The blooming period is January through March and will vary slightly each year according to the weather. The leaves develop in the spring, sometimes when the tree is still flowering. The alternative leaves are glossy green and oval-shaped. The leaf size is 2-4 inches long by 1-2 inches wide. The hard fruits are 1/2 inch across and round.

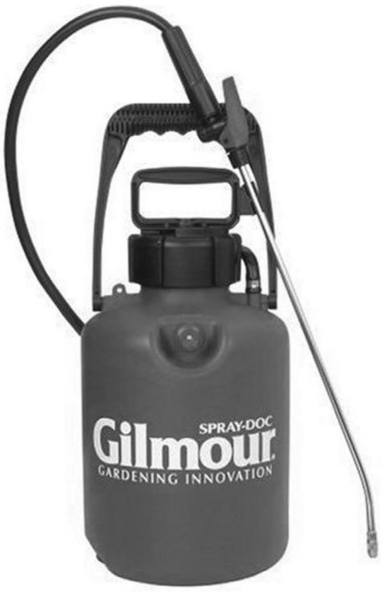
The trees growing at the Plaza de Panama and the Plaza de Balboa were planted in the mid-1970s and several have been replaced over the last decade as they completed their life span. The Balboa Park Precise Plan calls for the trees in the Plaza de Panama to be replaced with Queen Palms in the future.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Puplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.*



Photos: Don Walker, Courtesy of the San Diego Horticultural Society, reprinted from *Ornamental Trees of San Diego.*

Favorite Tool: Plastic Spray Tank



This is a difficult question but I have to say it is my plastic Gilmour Spray Tank. It is not the 'tool' I use the most but it saves me so much time controlling weeds (and other things). No hoeing, no bending down and pulling the little devils out. Just mix the spray, pump the handle about a dozen times and I'm ready to go. I most often spray Remuda (which is generic RoundUp and costs way less). Remember this product will *kill almost any plant* it gets on, so you need to be careful around desirable plants. Sometimes I "mask off" with a piece of corrugated cardboard that I carry with me.

Also, with a sprayer like this, you can use selective herbicides to kill broad leaf weeds in your lawn. There is also a spray that will kill unwanted grass in ornamental plants. I spray the grass growing in ice plant and don't worry about killing the ice plant. This product really saves a lot of time–and your back. Just be certain to *buy the proper herbicide* for your particular problem, and mix it carefully. Adding a wetting agent improves results.

When you're finished spraying, always dump out any unused spray, and wash the tank with soapy water. Also run the soapy water through the spray valve and wand to clean them. Some chemicals will jell or plug things up. So it's easier to do a simple cleaning than take the sprayer all apart later.

If you keep the sprayer really clean, it can be used for dormant sprays and other insect controls when you spot a problem. Remember concentrated sprays cost a lot less than the ready to use type.

Look for the Gilmour two-gallon sprayer at Walter Andersen Nursery in Point Loma and Poway. Cost is $30.

-Walter Andersen, Jr., owner of Walter Andersen Nursery

Well Celebrated: Kate O. Sessions

Photos: Ruth Hayward

Sculptor Ruth Hayward presents flowers at the Kate Sessions statue she created.

Lemonade flowed on a sunny day in November at Marston House Museum and Gardens just as the chocolate birthday cake was served. San Diegans were gathered on the north side of Balboa Park to mark the 153rd anniversary of Kate Sessions' birth (Nov. 8, 1857) within sight of the grounds she used as a nursery from 1892 until 1902 and in the garden she helped to created for the prominent Marston family.

Celebrants heard a short program about the life of the influential early-day horticulturist. Students representing Kate Sessions Elementary School in Pacific Beach accepted a large 'Kate Sessions' geranium plant for their school. This cultivar and other geraniums were sold to benefit Marston House, which offered tours throughout the day. Balboa Park ranger Kim Duclo led a walk to the Kate Sessions statue at Laurel Street where Ruth Hayward, the sculptor of the statue, presented a bouquet of birthday flowers.

Friends of Balboa Park sponsored a talk on the importance of San Diego's urban forest by nursery owner Fausto Palafox who led bus tours highlighting historic specimen trees in and near Balboa Park.

Friends of Balboa Park and Save Our Heritage Organisation joined the San Diego Floral Association in sponsoring its third annual celebration of Kate Sessions' birthday.

– Nancy Carol Carter

Ranger Kim Duclo assembles group for a park walking tour.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Did You Know...? Forecast for Winter is Dry and Cold

An early storm drenched San Diego County in October and our rainfall was above normal for the fall, but the winter season may end up drier than usual.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is currently tracking one of the largest La Nina events ever recorded. It could have a big impact on California weather this winter. Although it is not an exact science yet, the CPC long-term winter outlook for California is to be cold over the state and dry (mostly in Southern California).

In the past, California has experienced bad freeze/frost events during La Nina conditions, and we usually get a low snow pack leading to drought conditions the following summer. The conditions that we experienced this fall are typical of a La Nina event.

For more information and maps showing the outlook, go to www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions//multi season/13 seasonal outlooks/color/churchill.php.

Another characteristic of La Nina events is that the summer comes earlier during a La Nina.

– Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

The Ergo Gardener

By Kathy Jones

As you start a new year in the garden, *California Garden* is starting a new series to help you garden ergonomically. In addition to the tips in each issue, our logo is a reminder to bend your knees and not your back.

Tip 1: Warm Up

If you exercise, you know you're supposed to warm up first, right? The same is true for gardening, which can be a lot of hard work. So before you go out in the garden, complete a short warm-up that will help prevent injuries or strains.

1. Take 10 slow, deep breaths. Lift your arms as you inhale, and bring them down when you exhale.
2. Do 10 wide arm circles, forward and backward.
3. Lift your knees, alternating, 10 times per side.
4. Shift hips side to side, 10 times.
5. With knees slightly bent, reach arms toward the floor, bending from the waist. Hold for 20 seconds.
6. Finish with 5 slow standing twists to right and left, elbows bent.

Now you're good to go!

– Kathy Jones, Ph.D., is a retired professor in exercise and wellness. A San Diego Master Gardener for 7 years, she is also a graphic artist and copy writer for local clubs and businesses. She is past president of the Mission Hills Garden Club and the Mission Hills Town Council. She has spent the last six years renovating her own 100-year-old garden to incorporate more drought-tolerant plants.

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Jan. 10: Functional Garden Art
Landscaper and artist Greg Corman speaks about making garden art do double time as functional objects like gates, containers, wildlife habitat and more! Members free, non-members $10.

Feb. 14: Old-Fashioned Favorites for a New Water-Wise Look
Aenne Carver, "The Thrifty Gardener," will present a palette of old-fashioned flowers and plants that are lush AND drought-tolerant, and also share money-saving ideas for propagating these favorites. Members free, non-members $10.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Growing GROUNDS

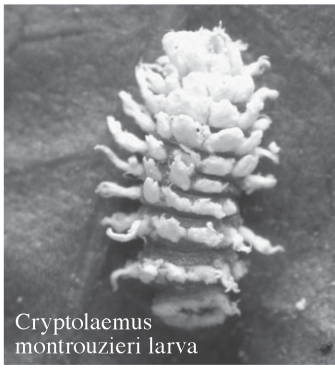
Ladybugs Saved Chula Vista's Title as Lemon Capitol of the World

By John Blocker

Doubtless some of you will smile at the statement, but most of you will live to see the time when people will cease to judge the immense county [San Diego] by a glance from a car window, or the deck of a steamer, when it will be the pride of California, when it will be ranked among the five wealthiest and most productive counties, when it will have outside the cities and towns, the largest population of producer of any county in the state, with the possible exception of Los Angeles County.

– T. S. Van Dyke at the Eleventh Fruit Growers Convention of the State of California, April 17, 1889, in National City

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri


Cryptolaemus montrouzieri larva

Importation of the vedalia ladybug into California from Australia in 1889 had been a tremendous success. The lady beetle virtually eliminated cottony cushion scale from California's citrus groves in just one season. The pest had wreaked havoc on agricultural crops and ornamental plantings throughout the state for more than 20 years.

In years to come, *cryptolaemus,* another lady beetle imported from Australia two years after the vedalia beetle, would become an important predator in the citrus groves in Southern California and in particular, the lemon groves in Chula Vista.

Ellwood Cooper, President of the Thirteenth Annual State Fruit Growers Convention held in Los Angeles, had heard *cryptolaemus* was known to attack a large number of insect pests in Australia. Because of the professed voraciousness of the *cryptolaemus* beetle, he urged in his opening speech to the convention on March 11, 1890, "that we memorialize Congress for an adequate appropriation to defray the necessary expenses to go to Australia and adjacent islands, to investigate the reported predaceous insect."

The federal government did allocate money. Albert Koebele, who brought back the vedalia ladybug in 1888, was sent again to Australia and in 1891 transported to California another ravenous lady beetle, *cryptolaemus*. This beetle would later be instrumental in controlling a new pest in Chula Vista's developing lemon industry.

A City Built on Lemons

In 1889 the San Diego Land and Town Company, a land development company formed by the Santa Fe Railroad, sold land in Chula Vista in 5 and 10 acre parcels to persons interested in establishing an agricultural enterprise. The Santa Fe Railroad had received the land in trade from Frank Kimball by agreeing to link National City to the East Coast with a rail line. The land had been bought by the Kimball brothers, Frank and Warren, in 1868 when they purchased *Rancho de la Nacion,* one of the original Mexican land grants.

In July 1889, William Aaron Henry, Professor of Botany from the University of Wisconsin, along with his nephew, Daniel K. Adams, planted 16 acres of Eureka lemons in Chula Vista on land acquired from the San Diego Land and Town Company. Henry found lemons ripened earlier than oranges in the cooler coastal climate. Others observed his success, and soon lemons became the area's dominant crop.

In 1911 in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* entitled "Chula Vista; Lemon Center," a correspondent reflected, "What Pasadena is to Los Angeles, Chula Vista is going to be to the city of San Diego, a high-grade city of beautiful homes."

The article quoted Chula Vista residents E. Melville and John Downing, "Our lemon groves, covering several thousand acres are a mass of deep green from one end of the year to the other, and the ever-blooming lemon trees exude a fragrance which is pleasing to the senses at all times.... We have abundant supply of cheap water for irrigation, the enlarged Sweetwater dam having a capacity for holding water enough for 15,000 acres of fruit land. We now have about 4,000 acres in lemons."

In the same 1911 article, C. R. Colburn described his business enterprise in Chula Vista, "It has been about eighteen months since I went into business here and during that time the building activity has been continuous. The class of people who are buying our lemon orchards, or setting out new ones in our city are desirable additions to the population."

Growers could make about $2,000 per acre growing lemons in 1911. Gross sales of lemons in Chula Vista that year exceeded $400,000. Five packing houses had been established and two of them were spending more than $10,000 each on additions and

improvements. Because lemons ripened throughout the year and are shipped as soon as picked, packing houses kept busy year-round. Lemons were transported east in reefers; that is, rail cars cooled by blocks of ice.

Charles Mohnike also commented in 1911, "I have been a resident of Chula Vista for the past twelve years and have seen the development of the lemon industry and the growing prosperity of our city. From now on forward will be easy sailing for our thriving city."

CV Insectarry

Raising the Mealy Bug Destroyer

But in 1913 citrus mealybug arrived in California causing extensive damage to citrus crops throughout the state. *Cryptolaemus* ladybugs, the ladybug Ellwood Cooper proposed importing at the Fruit Growers Conference in 1890 and the one Albert Koebele brought back from Australia in 1891, were soon found to be an excellent control for citrus mealybug throughout California's citrus groves, including Chula Vista's lemon orchards. By 1921, the San Diego County Department of Agriculture was rearing *cryptolaemus* for release into local orchards at an insectary built at 511 G Street in Chula Vista. Conveniently, a lemon grove was located across the street.

The Second Report of the California Department of Agriculture published in 1922 noted that more than 180,000 *cryptolaemus* ladybugs were reared at the Chula Vista insectary during the previous year. The larvae consumed so many mealybugs in the field they became known as the "mealybug destroyer." Because the larvae did not overwinter well, introduction into groves was necessary every year.

By 1921 additional county insectaries were opened in Santa Paula and in Upland, and a State insectary was established in Whittier. The three facilities reared *cryptolaemus* as well as six other insect predators and parasites to control citrus mealybug, black scale, red scale and cottony cushion scale. During 1921 these insectaries produced almost a million parasites and predators that were brought to locations where pests were active. At the Chula Vista insectary, *cryptolaemus* was the only predator or parasite produced.

In 1928 Robert R. McLean, Commissioner of Agriculture for San Diego County, described the Chula Vista insectary in an article in the *Los Angeles Times*: "The walls of the five rooms in the insectary are lined with shelves. In two of the rooms the shelves are covered with earth-filled boxes in which potatoes are sprouted. A few mealy bugs are placed on the tender twigs, which then are taken into the other rooms, in which there are a few oranges or lemons to give the bugs a change of diet before they are attacked by the hungry parasites. The latter, well fed, multiply at a rapid rate and when matured are placed ten in a capsule and taken to an infected orchard. One capsule is used on each tree." Using this method the insectary could produce about 225,000 beneficial insects per month. Lemon production in Chula Vista boomed. The city proclaimed itself the "Lemon Capital of the World."

Changing Times

By the 1950s, Chula Vista's lemon orchards were being plowed under to make room for houses and new businesses to accommodate the post-war population boom in Southern California. Across the street from the Chula Vista insectary, the lemon orchard was removed and Vista Square Elementary School built in its place. Production of *cryptolaemus* at the Chula Vista insectary ceased as the county's budget tightened. Private insectaries began producing the lady beetle for sale to growers.

In 2000 the old insectary building was turned into an Agricultural Museum operated by the City of Chula Vista. New greenhouse structures were located in the driveway to serve as insect breeding facilities. To this day the Chula Vista insectary continues to be used by the County Department of Agriculture to raise predaceous and parasitic insects for release to control problem pests in the county.

– John Blocker worked with the agricultural industry in San Diego for 31 years.

Resources:

California Department of Agriculture, *Second Report*, 1921

California Fruit Growers and Farmers Convention, *Proceedings*, no. 11, 1889 and no. 13, 1891

"Chula Vista; Lemon Center," *Los Angeles Times,* November 26, 1911

Karna Webster, *Chula Vista Heritage 1911-1986*. City of Chula Vista, 1986

"Prevention Held to be Easier Than the Cure," *Los Angeles Times*, January 29, 1928

"South Bay is Putting Its Rural Past into a Museum," *San Diego Union-Tribune*, June 26, 2000

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Judy's Perennials

By Judy Wigand

True-blue California Lilac is a Native That Fills Spring Gardens with Color

There are few California native plants that produce flowers as "true-blue" as *Ceanothus* does. Often referred to as California lilac, *Ceanothus* has been highly respected for centuries as one of our most prized native shrubs and ground covers. To our modern day gardens this shrubby plant family offers a good deal more than its coveted blue hues.

Much of the local coastal scrub and inland chaparral areas hosts large colonies of *Ceanothus*. It's been noted the majority of the entire genus can be found concentrated along the coastline and foothill areas of the state's temperate Mediterranean belt.

In the wild, *Ceanothus* plays a very important roll in erosion control, while its evergreen shrubby form provides a rich habitat, offering food and shelter for many area birds and animals. It also carries a strong reputation for being one of California's most drought resistant native plants.

When in flower, usually during late winter to early spring, our coastal scrub and inland chaparral areas are transformed by billowy masses of vivid blue flowers, ranging from pale azure to deep cobalt blue. A healthy stand of *Ceanothus* in bloom is almost as if the sky had been brought down to ground level.

Much attention from enthusiastic botanists and horticulturists over the last several decades has been spent on creating *Ceanothus* selections or cultivars that are more tolerant of garden culture. Still, this arid plant family suffers a reputation as being "touchy" to grow or short lived at best. Native plant experts have advised gardeners to let up on the watering regime during our long warm dry seasons. Yet water is recommended during its first year in order to establish a plant. To learn more about growing *Ceanothus* more successfully, we tapped the knowledge of a *Ceanothus* expert.

Kurt Zadnik
Ceanothus

Photo: Bob Wigand

Expert Advice

David Fross, founder of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery in Arroyo Grande, has a long-standing passion for the genus. His recent book, *Ceanothus*, coauthored with Dieter Wilken (Timber Press, $39.95), is a comprehensive guide for gardeners and nursery professionals alike. It is the first book of its kind in more than 60 years.

Fross states the poor success rate of a garden-cultivated *Ceanothus* is often due to poor site placement. If planted in poorly drained soils and given frequent summer irrigation, *Ceanothus* will perish within a couple of years. He points out soils should be well drained and allowed to become completely dry between waterings. The heat of summer coupled with consistently damp soil stimulates a variety of fungal organisms or water-borne molds that in turn cause root rot, one of the leading causes of plant loss.

Fross also points out heavy pruning can lead to the plant's demise. Airborne spores enter the plant through these open cuts, usually during the rainy season and cause a fungal disease known as apricot dieback. One limb at a time will die. Cuts larger than a pencil should be sealed with any kind of compound that prevents water from penetrating the open wound. Fross recommends light pruning immediately after flowering, relieving the plant of its spent flowering stems and creating a cleaner appearance.

There are *Ceanothus* species and cultivars that are more garden tolerant than others, as Fross points out in the book's many plant profiles. For example, he describes *Ceanothus* 'Concha' a dependable and heavy bloomer, more tolerant of heavier soils and summer watering. He believes it is superior as a longer-lived plant to *C.* 'Julia Phelps' or *C.* 'Dark Star', which are also common cultivars of equal size. Clearly his book serves as an invaluable guide for gardeners when selecting a suitable *Ceanothus* for the garden.

Fross points out the plants' extraordinary blue flowers have always been the main draw of the entire genus. Creative hybridizing has greatly intensified that color range, drawing even more interest to this exceptional plant family for garden culture. Fross offers in-depth descriptions of more than 90 hybrids; coauthor Wilken describes more than 50 species in his portion of their book. The combination is unmatched in any other work.

In the first portion of the book Fross offers a "*Ceanothus* Selection Guide," a valuable resource to aid gardeners wanting a suitable *Ceanothus* for specific positions in the garden. His in-depth list includes garden-tolerant varieties that cover a broad range of soils and climates. Categories include bank and ground

Ray Hartman *Ceanothus* with Cherokee rose

cover selections, informal hedges and screens, seashore garden choices, specimens and small trees, shade tolerant and white flowering forms.

Personal Favorites

Listed below are my personal picks for low, medium and tall forms that carry a good reputation for being reliably garden tolerant.

Low growing 2-3 foot tall selections:

***Ceanothus* 'Joyce Coulter':** Gentian-blue flowers appear in late winter and spring. Reaches 3-5 feet high with spreading branches of 15-25 feet across. Foliage is approximately 1-inch long with a textured green surface. Use to spill over walls or as an extensive bank cover.

***C.* 'Centennial':** Cobalt-blue flowers appear in tight 2-inch long clusters in early spring. A horizontal plant reaching 12 inches high, spreading outward to 5 feet. Small shiny green leaves are attractive year round. Tolerant of partial shade.

***C.* 'Yankee Point':** China-blue flowers bloom in early spring on this most popular ground cover variety. Dense arching branches reach 2-3 feet tall and spread 8-12 feet or more. Tolerant of a variety of climates. Provide full sun along the coast; partial shade inland.

***C.* 'Diamond Heights':** A showy variegated form with chartreuse and dark green leaves. Extremely prostrate growth habit of 6-12 inches, spreading up to 5 feet wide. Dusty pale blue flowers appear in spring, but plants are prized for foliage color rather than the flowers.

Medium growing 4-6 foot tall selections:

***Ceanothus* 'Wheeler Canyon':** Heavy dark blue flowers cover this dense mounding shrub in spring. Grows to 6 feet tall. Known for being tolerant of heavier soils. Longer lived along the coast or in cooler climates. Useful as a garden specimen in smaller gardens.

***C.* 'Kurt Zadnik':** Intensely deep blue flowers cover the plant in mid-spring. Mature growth reaches 4-5 feet tall and wide. Fast growing. Best suited for gardens with a coastal influence. Tolerant of wind, salt spray and fog.

***C.* 'Skylark':** Cerulean blue flowers appear later than most others, making this a good choice to extend bloom in the garden. Neat dome shape 4-5 feet tall and wide. Known for its wide tolerance of climate and soil types in both coastal and inland areas.

***C.* 'Santa Ana':** Rated among the darkest blue flowers in the genus. Mounding open growth habit from 4-8 feet tall, with a spread of 8-10 feet. Useful as a hedge or a specimen on slopes or banks.

Large growing 8-12 foot tall selections:

***Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman':** Deep medium-blue flowers bloom on 3- to 5-inch long clusters for a stunning show of blue color during spring. This is one of the more dependable cultivars in the trade. Plants make tree-like specimens in just a couple of years, growing 10-12 feet tall and more. Due to its rapid growth, early pruning may be necessary to shape.

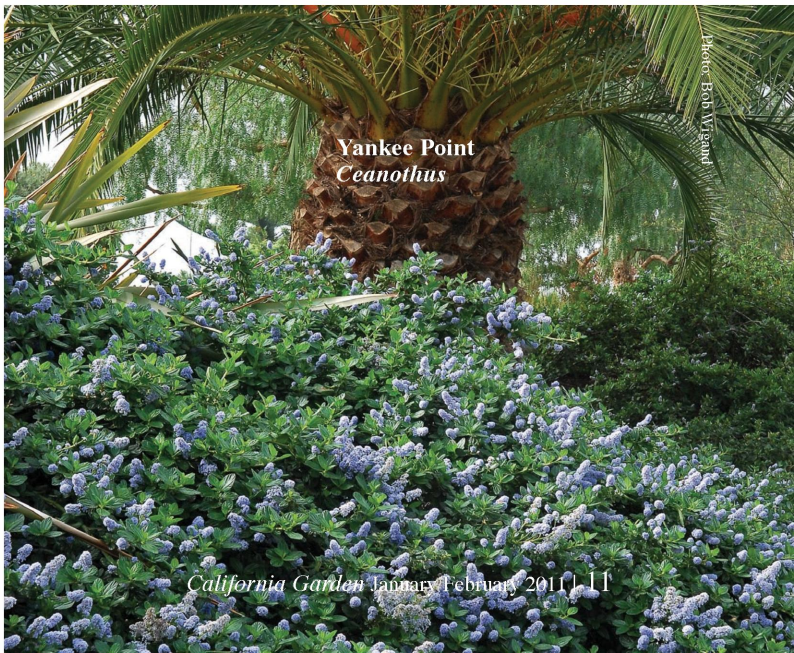
***C.* 'Frosty Blue':** Luminous blue flowers are enhanced by white bracts on the buds. Blooming later during spring than most others cultivars, it extends color in the spring garden. Growth habit is fountain-like, reaching 8-12 feet or more. A reliable choice for heavy soils. Makes a good specimen when espaliered along a wall or fence.

***C.* 'Concha':** Among the most vibrant dark blue flowering forms in the trade with 1-inch long clusters in early spring. It holds a well-deserved reputation as one of the most dependable and heavy bloomers for garden culture. Plants reach 6-9 feet tall with equal spread, but much larger specimens have been reported.

***C.* 'Snow Flurry':** Most commonly grown pure white-flowering form. Large snow-white flower clusters 2 inches long cover the plant during early spring. Fast growth rate reaches up to 12 feet or more. Rounded, open shape. Can be trained as a small garden tree with artful pruning. A dependable and garden-tolerant cultivar.

Finding the plants shouldn't be difficult. Native plant nursery Tree Of Life at 33201 Ortega Highway in San Juan Capistrano (www.TreeOfLifeNursery.com) has a stunning *Ceanothus* selection. Check the web site for open days and hours.

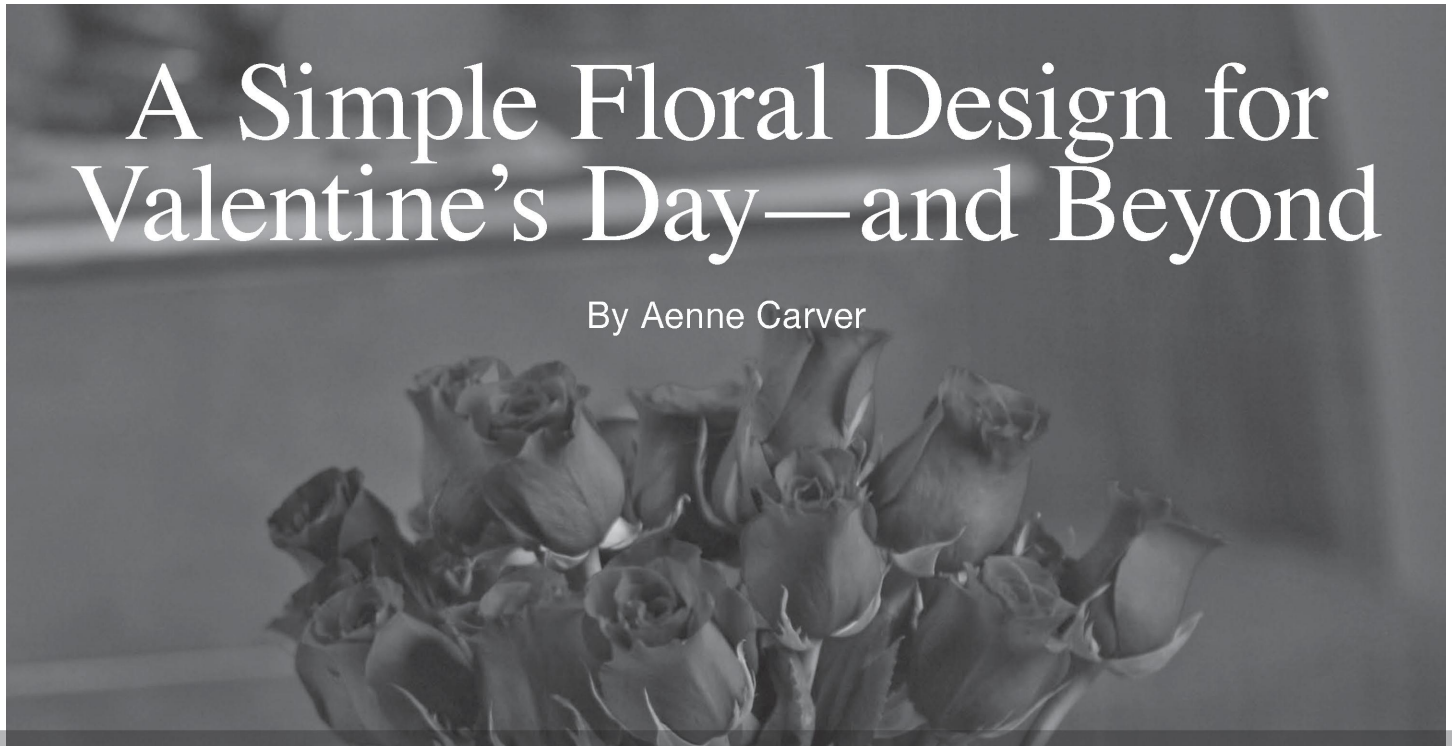
Judy Wigand is a lecturer and freelance garden writer. She operated Judy's Perennials, a specialty nursery, for 15 years in San Marcos.



Yankee Point *Ceanothus*

A Simple Floral Design for Valentine's Day—and Beyond

By Aenne Carver



Making a floral design is a lot like cooking: you gather ingredients, prepare the elements, and mix them together into a tasteful blend. A magic alchemy comes from mixing fresh flowers and your style.

The act of flower arranging can be soothing and uplifting. As Anne Morrow Lindbergh said, "Arranging a bowl of flowers in the morning can give a sense of quiet in a crowded day - like writing a poem or saying a prayer."

Gardeners can benefit from having a basic design up their gardening gloves, ready to pull out for Valentine's Day, parties, or for a birthday. Here is an easy design that requires only one type of flower, and no fillers (a florist term for smaller flowers, and/or greens).

Practically speaking, this arrangement is ideal for a beginner because the flowers are placed right next to each other, and the stems are cut the same length. To make this design even more versatile, simply change the container and the color or type of flower. This design works best with large flowers, like carnations, chrysanthemums or daisies. Another plus is that this arrangement fits in with any style home decor.

Photo: Mark Brlej

Photos: Mark Briej

Ingredients

1. Oasis (floral foam) for fresh flowers. Be careful not to get Oasis for silk flowers because it doesn't absorb water.

2. One dozen roses. For the cheapest roses, avoid red ones near Valentine's Day; buy pink or white instead. Purchase at grocery stores or Farmer's Markets for additional savings.

3. A watertight container or a plastic container to fit inside your chosen porous container, like a box. The photographs show an 8-inch ceramic, water tight, rectangle purchased at Michael's for $7.99.

Optional corsage pins with pearl heads.

Directions

1. Remove all leaves from the roses or other flowers, and place them in a sink filled with water. The flowers need a fresh cut to keep them hydrated. Unfortunately, rose stems are prone to air bubbles which hinder water absorption. You may have noted this condition when you received a dozen roses, and suddenly one tips its head and dies without opening. To prevent this, cut rose stems under water. Other flowers do not seem to get this problem. For this design, all stems can be cut the same height, preferably slightly shorter than the container. Be sure to error on the side of too long rather than too short. You can always trim the stems shorter, but going the other direction is not an option.

2. Soak Oasis in sink full of water until water is fully absorbed, at least 10 minutes.

3. Cut the Oasis with a bread knife to fit the container. The easiest way to do this is to press container lightly onto the Oasis, leaving a grooved impression. Then, cut just inside the groove marks. If your container is not watertight, then line it with a slightly smaller plastic container and place the Oasis inside the plastic container. When finished, the Oasis should be slightly lower than the lip of the container.

4. Place a rose in each corner of the container, and one in the middle. Then begin filling in the remaining space. You may find it helpful to imagine a grid, like a tick-tack-toe square lying on top of the container. Try to place the larger or more open flowers in the middle, and the tightly closed flowers around the perimeter. If you end up with gaps, or if a flower looks too large in a particular spot, simply pull it out and re-insert it in a better spot. Keep working until design is packed tightly, and the flowers are in a pleasing mass.

5. For an optional final step that is sort of like gilding the lily, top each rose with a pearl. Use pearl tipped corsage pin, and insert the pin into the center of each flower.

An Historic Garden Unearthed

A Bankers' Hill canyon is home to a newly discovered and restored Kate Sessions' design

By Ann Jarmusch

Allergies and tangled vines kept Sandra B. Phelps out of her steep, shady canyon garden for 20 some years, even though she'd always felt drawn to it. "The canyon was mysterious and overgrown," Phelps recalled. "I knew when I bought my home that the canyon was shared by the handful of homes surrounding it. I lived in the house and the canyon lived separately."

The 1912 house, which soars above the quiet canyon in San Diego's Bankers' Hill neighborhood, is a historic landmark designed by architect Irving J. Gill. It's one of a small group of houses commissioned by Katherine Teats, one of Gill's forward-thinking female patrons. A photo of the house shot around 1933 from the lower canyon recently sparked Phelps's curiosity. It shows a very different canyon; sun-drenched and barren except for pathways, terraces, stone walls, and a small bench.

Envisioning "a minor landscaping task," Phelps asked Randy Laurie of Laurie's Landscaping to investigate.

Kate Sessions was an originator of canyon landscaping in San Diego.

Useable space outside the home is extended with canyon landscaping, a bench and pathways.

Photos: Ann Jarmusch

Curvilinear paths and steps of local stone flow comfortably down into the canyon.

Photos: Ann Jarmusch

Garden Sleuth and Archeologist

Laurie, who grew up on an historic property in Ohio, went to the San Diego History Center archives and was instantly hooked. He found photographs, files, and books on Teats and her partner, developer Alice Lee, and on Gill and Kate O. Sessions, the leading nursery woman and landscaper who worked with Gill on many of his projects.

Laurie also found a plot plan prepared by Gill's office for eight houses to line both sides of Phelps's canyon. The drawing shows a network of landscaped, descending paths--some curved, some straight--between the houses and separated at the canyon floor by a wide "boulevard." Several experts, including architectural historian Esther McCoy, attribute this drawing to a young draftsman who worked for Gill at the time, Frank Lloyd Wright's son John Lloyd Wright.

The notion of sharing the canyon comes out of the then-popular Arts and Crafts movement and the Progressive Era's social reforms favored by San Diego's civic leaders at the time. Teats and Lee themselves lived in a big house (designed by Hebbard & Gill) on Seventh Avenue. The home was connected to their two rental cottages by a large yard and a U-shaped pergola.

Laurie was so excited by his findings that he called Phelps often with updates. When he plunged into the overgrown canyon, he found stone walls where he expected them to be, based on the historic photo. He promptly got Phelps's permission to clear away the thick nasturtium vines and other invasive plants. Most of the nearly 100-year-old terraces, retaining walls, and stairs had disappeared under decades of dead leaves and debris.

"He suddenly changed from a landscaper into an archeologist," Phelps said with pleasure. "He'd find a little evidence, then extrapolate and find more parts."

Layered Legacy

Phelps conferred with Nancy Carol Carter, an expert on Sessions and past president of the San Diego Floral Association, and learned that Sessions was known for using stone retaining walls and stone-lined, earthen, garden paths in the Arts & Crafts tradition.

It seems Gill, or perhaps Teats, hired Sessions to refine the plot plan and select plants for gardens at Phelps's end of the canyon. Sessions probably oversaw the construction of a large bench that was recently discovered on Phelps property when a wasp nest was removed. The distinctive bench has a stone slab for the seat, a river rock back, and molded concrete arms.

Some of the plants Sessions selected still grow here including eucalyptus, Italian cypress, bougainvillea, and banana. The stately Chinese elm, another Sessions favorite, adds to the thick canopy, while cape honeysuckle perfumes the air. As these choices show, Sessions was an early and persistent advocate of drought-tolerant plantings for San Diego's coastal desert environment.

Laurie repaired parts of the walls and rebuilt a small section. At the base of the canyon, he built new steps on top of the old ones. They fan out "like a flowing gown," Phelps said, "opening up to the rest of the canyon."

Standing on one of the restored paths, Phelps looked up at her house, with its Romeo and Juliet balcony bedecked with wisteria. "This is the vision Irving Gill had of this land and this house when he married the two," she said. "They're meant to be integral parts of each other.... I am passionate about the legacy left by both Gill and Sessions."

Having completed Phelps's canyon garden restoration, Laurie is now rehabilitating the newly exposed stone retaining walls for a house across the canyon. He said two other neighbors recently cleared their canyon sections of "truckloads of nasturtium and other vines." The walls they uncovered are in various states of repair and Laurie is not sure they'll undertake faithful restorations. Laurie said of Phelps's garden, "This was like finding old buried treasure and dusting it off. It has been an adventure and an honor."

– Ann Jarmusch is a San Diego-based writer on architecture, design and historic preservation.

Canyon views offer a new perspective on architectural features of the home.

Photo: Ann Jarmusch

ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

Theodore Payne

Despite a token wage and long work days, the demanding job Theodore Payne started in 1886 at age 14 was no hardship. He held a treasured apprenticeship with a nursery company in his native England, a place purchased with family money and secured by a legal indenture. Such apprenticeships were a proven path to a career in horticulture. During the next three years, Payne trained by rotating through every department of the nursery business, from practical growing and seed operations to office work and landscaping. He was hired in the seed department of the company upon the completion of his apprenticeship.

Payne's widowed mother supported his career choice. Of her six boys, Theodore was the one who shared her passion for botany and was eager to learn about nature and gardening. He loved to find new wildflowers and learn their names. His pressed collection won a school prize and he received an early lesson in conservation when his natural history club began replanting a native flower threatened with extinction.

In 1893, Payne immigrated to the United States. While crossing the country to California, he celebrated his 21st birthday with a week at the Columbian Exposition—the great Chicago world's fair. He picked apricots upon arriving in Los Angeles and visited nurseries and seed companies to inquire about permanent employment. He heard of an opening for a gardener on a ranch estate in the Santa Ana Mountains. While questioning whether his nursery training really qualified him as an estate gardener, he took the job. It paid $35 per month with room and board.

One of Payne's new Los Angeles acquaintances vehemently discouraged his move to the wilds of Orange County, warning that it was a dangerous and lawless place. The frightened young Englishman purchased a revolver and nervously boarded the train for El Toro. He was met and taken by buckboard to the 400-acre cattle ranch in Santiago Canyon. He was assigned to attend a large vegetable garden, 30 acres of olive trees and the formal gardens surrounding the main house, a rambling bungalow designed by Stanford White, New York architect to the rich and famous.

Upon arrival, Theodore Payne received a friendly welcome from his unlikely employers, Madame Helena Mojeska and Count Karol Bozenta Chlapowski, darlings of the Warsaw intelligentsia and leaders of a small colony of Polish immigrants to California. Their colony had collapsed when its romantic idealists were confronted with the real work of self-sufficiency on the land. Madame Mojeska revived her acting career as funds ran short. She mastered English, made her American debut on the San Francisco stage and became a celebrated Shakespearian actress in New York and London. With financial success, the family purchased the Orange County property known as the Mojeska Ranch as a permanent home.

During almost three years on the ranch, Payne met famous visitors and enjoyed the "democracy" of the owners, who freely associated with the ranch hands and sometimes included them in family parties. Still, it was a lonely and isolated life and Payne wanted to return to the work for which he had been trained. Payne left the Mojeska Ranch with a new interest in California native plants and a special reverence for the rich variety of wildflowers he was discovering in his adopted home. At Madam Mojeska's insistence, he had successfully domesticated a number of wildflowers for the ranch garden.

Payne started a new job in the seed department of the Germain Fruit Company in Los Angeles. He traveled internationally to forge business ties with nurseries and seed companies. Although he was promoted to a management position during his six years with the company, Payne left Germain in 1903 to strike out on his own.

He again set off for England and Europe, this time lining up his own business contacts across the United States and abroad. Once back in Los Angeles, he purchased a struggling nursery business from his British countryman, Hugh Evans. Payne added a seed business to the nursery and in various locations operated successfully for the next several years. He became known as a one-person clearinghouse of nursery information and a source for tracking down specific trees, plants and seeds. His knowledge was gained through regular visits to nurseries up and down the state. He kept up with what was being grown or tried in various locations.

Eventually Payne began to focus on his first love: wildflowers. He grieved the disappearance of these and other native plants as population growth and development altered the California landscape. Scant success attended his initial efforts because customers lacked interest. He raised public awareness by creating wildflower demonstration gardens on vacant lots, issuing a catalog of wildflower seeds and exhibiting at flower shows. He published numerous articles on wildflowers, including a two-part contribution to *California Garden* in 1912.

A corner was turned when his five-acre "Wild Garden" planted in 1915 in Los Angeles' Exposition Park won popular acclaim and international press coverage. He launched a lecture tour on "Preserving the Wild Flowers and Native Landscapes of California." After a wealthy homeowner in Montecito hired Payne to landscape her large estate in 1919, native plantings became even more fashionable. Over the next 20 years, Theodore Payne narrowed his nursery business until he was devoting himself exclusively to native plants and wildflowers.

All photos courtesy of Theodore Payne Foundation.

During his long life, Payne was active in horticulture and natural history organizations. Along the way, he provided inspiration for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, advised the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and worked on the planning and planting of other parks and public spaces across the state. In 1952, his work in preserving the native flora of California was recognized by the Southern California Horticulture Institute. In 1961 the 320-acre Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary was dedicated in Antelope Valley. Concurrently, the Theodore Payne Foundation was incorporated "to promote, preserve and restore California native landscapes and habitats, to make native plants and seeds available and to educate the public about California flora and natural history."

Recognized today as "one of the most fervent advocates" of native plants, Payne urged residents to be "good Californians" by planting the trees, shrubs and flowers of California. However, his contribution goes much deeper than advocacy. Theodore Payne is credited with introducing more than 430 wildflowers and other native plants into cultivation. Without his practical and pioneering work in domestication and seed distribution, more California native plants would be extinct and the variety available to us sorely diminished.

Theodore Payne

Horticulturist, nursery owner and seeds man, promoter of California native flora.

Born: Church Brampton, England, June 19, 1872

Died: Los Angeles, May 6, 1963

Dig deeper with:

Theodore Payne in His Own Words: A Voice for California Native Plants. Pasadena: Many Moons Press for the Theodore Payne Foundation, 2004.

"Theodore Payne," in Victoria Padilla, *Southern California Gardens*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1961, 162-167.

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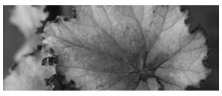
NOW IS THE TIME

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout January and February

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

1. Brush leaves with a soft brush to remove dust.
2. Wash plants if needed. Put foil under lower leaves and around the pot. Lean plant under warm water at sink.
3. Gently rub or brush leaves with fingers. Dry all droplets of water.
4. Use a paper tower or soft Q-tip to gently dry the centers.



BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

1. Remove all dead leaves and debris from pots or beds.
2. Watch for pests and spray for mildew.
3. Go for the tuberous types in February and begin pruning the others.
4. Trim back old growth. Start new canes from the cuttings.
5. Repot; up one size is the rule.
6. Water less, but do not allow to dry out.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

1. Wire your conifer and evergreen trees.
2. Graft conifers, deciduous and evergreen trees.
3. Adjust watering to winter weather conditions.
4. Apply lime sulfur or other dormant spray. Protect the soil and pots from spray.
5. Prune fruit bearing bonsai.
6. Watch for aphids and other sucking insects and spray accordingly.
7. Search nurseries for deciduous stock.
8. Prepare your soil mix for repotting.
9. Repot starting in February.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

1. Water less often during cold weather.
2. Collect rainwater for future use.
3. Continue to watch out for freezing temperatures. When that occurs, cover plants with an old sheet or similar material (do not use plastic covering). You may want to bring some of your more sensitive plants indoors. Do not place plants in front of heating vents.
4. Keep center cup filled with fresh water.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

1. The recent rains and warmer sunny days should have all aeoniums unfurled and in full face. Other winter growers like senecios and some echeverrias are also in their growth season. If you want to start cuttings, this is a great time to do it. Remember to allow cut ends to callus for a day or so. If you want to use fertilizers, you can apply as directed on these plants now.
2. Check the amount of sun container plants are getting. The sun is lower and weaker now so move plants into an area that gets more sunlight. This will help prevent legginess.
3. Watering, even for winter growers, should be minimal unless the Santa Ana winds pay a visit.
4. Watch for colder temperatures and rain. Keep protective plastic covers readily available to protect plants from hail. Hardware store plastic drop cloths or even shower curtains will help. Hail permanently pits the leaves of succulents.
5. After rain, don't let container plants stand in water.
6. Keep the area around your landscape succulents clear of debris and old plant material.
7. Refresh your interior space by putting different succulents in containers in a sunny location and switching them out weekly. You can put plants in nursery pots into decorative containers. Water well and allow containers to drain before bringing them inside. Don't water the week they are inside.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

1. Check nurseries for camellias in bloom. January through March are the prime bloom months. A few favorites are: 'Silver Waves', very large pure white with a sunburst of stamens; 'Katie', a very large salmon-rose semi-double; 'Kramer's Supreme', fragrant, turkey-red, full peony form; 'Carter's Sunburst', very large loose peony form, cerise stripes and flecks on soft pink petals; 'C.M. Hovey' syn. 'Colonel Firey', medium sized, brilliant red, formal double.
2. Transplant, pot, re-pot or bare-root and re-pot now since camellias are still in their dormant season (October through March). When planting, whether in the soil or in a pot, plant 1-inch higher than soil level. Camellias don't like their crowns covered. Also, remember some camellias like shady spots and some like sun. Check your nursery tag or with nursery personnel.

3. Continue to remove all but the largest bud where bud clusters exist. Disbudding provides larger but fewer blooms.
4. Prune out branches that might prevent buds from opening.
5. Pick up blooms that fall to the ground to prevent petal blight.
6. Fertilize in January with 0-10-10 for larger buds. Note that fertilizing this late in the season may produce only marginal results. Add an iron supplement to grow dark green leaves and gypsum to help prevent leaf tip burn.
7. Maintain a regular watering regimen. Don't let a plant dry out, but if it rains heavily, cut back on supplemental watering. Be sure and monitor plants under eaves and canopies where the rain doesn't always reach.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

1. By early January, the tops of any remaining plants should be completely withered; cut the tops down to just above the ground.
2. Leave tubers in the ground if soil has good drainage. Otherwise dig and store.
3. Store tubers, without dividing, in a cool place in vermiculite or in peat moss. Leave on soil that clings from their removal from the ground.
4. Inspect all tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If a tuber looks dry, add a little moisture. Throw away rotting tubers, those that appear watery or are mushy to the touch.
5. Prepare planting beds in February by turning the soil and adding humus. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn the mixture over well. Several weeks before planting, add steer or chicken manure and water in well. Just before planting, scatter bone meal and blood meal over planting beds and cut in using a rake.
6. Sprout some selected roots in February, as these sprouts make good cuttings. If having trouble, apply bottom heat to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

1. Collect rainwater and store in opaque containers to prevent infestations of mosquito larvae and algae buildups.
2. Protect plants from frost and strong winter winds.
3. Use snail and slug bait.
4. Spray insecticide only if necessary. Do not use insecticides with an oil-base. Follow manufacturers' directions carefully.
5. Prune out dead and unsightly growth.
6. Feed mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in the spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about 30 days.

Hylocereus undatus

FERNS

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

1. Water gently. Do not over water.
2. Trim off dead fronds but not green ones. Most small leaf maidenhairs can be cut back completely.
3. Fertilize *Platyceriums* (staghorns) with high nitrogen fertilizer. They are starting to grow. Do not use slow release pellets.
4. Remove and remount *Platycerium* pups.
5. Sow spores.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

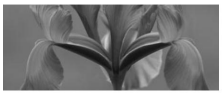
Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticultural Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

1. Finish pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.
2. Prune evergreens just before or when new growth begins.
3. Spray dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.
4. Spray dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control peach leaf curl.
5. Learn more about pest management at *www.ipm.ucdavis.edu*.
6. Plant dormant bare root trees and vines.
7. Paint the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury (use equal parts water and white interior flat latex paint).
8. Provide frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.
9. Feed fruit trees with a nitrogen fertilizer when new growth begins.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

1. Make a cup of mint tea fresh from the garden. If you don't have any in the garden, plant some.
2. Fertilize your herb garden. Use compost, earthworm castings, kelp, manure and peat moss. Add gypsum if you have a clay soil.
3. Plant aloe, parsley, dill, borage, calendula, rosemary and sage. Also plant native herbs such as white sage, black sage, California poppy and yerba santa.
4. Prune and lace your deciduous herbal shrubs and trees. These include rose, chaste tree, gingko, lemon verbena and elderberry.



IRIS

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

1. Fertilize again for the spring burst of blooms. Use a low nitrogen mix.
2. Check for aphids that hide all winter at the base of leaves. It is best to use a systemic insect spray. Spray for diseases with a spray such as Daconil; it gets them all.
3. Discard all dead leaves and weeds. Put them in your dumpster, not the compost pile.
4. Check to see if all labels are by the proper clumps. Use weatherproof marking pens on labels.
5. Keep everything watered if we have a dry winter.
6. Foliar feed for bigger and brighter colored blooms.

California Poppy

Photo: Rachel Cobb

NATIVE PLANTS

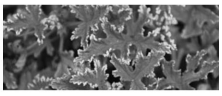
John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

1. Plant wildflower seeds, like California bluebells, Chinese houses, farewell to spring, mountain garland, goldfields and California poppy.
2. Plant your choice of California native plants. Dig a hole and fill with water several times, amend soil slightly and plant the root ball so that it is an inch or two higher than the existing soil level. Cover with soil to create a little mound. Water again with a spray.
3. Hose down your native garden once a week until the rainy season kicks in.

ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

1. Give your deciduous and cool-growing Dendrobiums and Nobile hybrids a dry winter rest through January.
2. Look for spikes on winter-blooming cattleyas (*C. labiata*, etc.) in January.
3. Train developing spikes on phalaenopsis, especially those left outside until nighttime temperatures dropped top 55 degrees F. to initiate reblooming.
4. Watch for rotting plants and rotting mixes. Repot plants when any signs of rot occur and dust any affected areas of the plant with sulfur.
5. Increase water if plants show signs of faster growth in February.
6. Protect outdoor plants from nighttime moisture. Water before noon.



PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemick, San Diego Geranium Society

1. Water on a regular schedule. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Keep potted plants out of prolonged rain.
2. Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two-week intervals.
3. Continue a pest control and disease prevention program.
4. Top pinch any plants that were not previously cut back. When the stems start to leaf out, cut them back to one-half the stem length.
5. Make cuttings from the prunings. Try rooting them in straight perlite. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather; place them in a warm location to produce roots more rapidly.
6. Protect plants from freezing.
7. Rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

PLUMERIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

1. Top-off plants with as much mulch as possible to protect them from cold and rain.
2. Do not fertilize and sparingly water those plants that still have leaves if drought conditions continue. Leaves that remain will usually drop off in the spring when new growth begins.
3. Clean the area around the plant to prevent disease.
4. Do not remove the inflorescences and seed pods. The inflorescence will usually bloom prior to new leaf growth.
5. If seed pods are large enough and have split from one to two, cover each one with a netting material. This will prevent wind dispersal of the seeds when a pod ripens.

Rosa 'Lavender Dream'

Photo: Rachel Cobb

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

1. Prune hybrid teas and climbers anytime from mid-January to Valentine's Day.
2. Prune floribundas, shrubs, miniatures and minifloras from the beginning to the end of January.
3. Improve your pruning skills the first Saturday of January at 9:30 a.m. at the Balboa Park Rose Garden on Park Avenue. American Rose Society Consulting Rosarians first will demonstrate the best technique. You will then prune a rose bush with guidance as needed. Bring gloves and pruners.
4. After pruning, lay down mulch to prevent weeds and enrich your soil.
5. Begin feeding established roses as soon as there is six inches of new growth.
6. Begin measures to prevent powdery mildew as soon as feeding is started.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

1. Continue planting cool-season vegetables where frost seldom occurs. Cool-season vegetables include beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radishes, rutabagas, and turnips.
2. Use floating row cover fabric on seeded transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.
3. Plant dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Plant seeds of medium day-length onions such as White Sweet Spanish, Stockton Yellow Globe and Italian Red (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.
5. Order seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.
6. Remove and compost old tomato vines and other summer crops to control diseases and pests.

Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by:

The San Diego Cactus And Succulent Society

February 12, 2011

At The Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Members only shopping will be from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Open to the public 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Strange and exotic plants from the far corners of the world gathered together for your viewing amazement!!

Sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well as handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

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Plan, Prune, Tend and Enjoy!

The Basics of Backyard Orchard Culture are Within Reach of All

By Tom Spellman

Backyard orchard culture is not commercial orchard culture. In fact, it's not even close. That's because what's most important to a commercial fruit grower isn't what's important to those of us who grow fruit in our back yards.

Commercial fruit growers understand that most consumers buy fruit at the market based strictly on how it looks. Shoppers can't taste the fruit and it usually doesn't have much aroma. So they buy what looks good–big, blemish free, shiny fruit. Commercial growers also are concerned how fruit handles packing, shipping and cold storage, and how long its shelf life is. Somewhere down the list, say number 5, 6 or 7, is flavor. Really.

Now, what's important to backyard fruit growers? Top consideration by a landslide is flavor. A few blemishes or seeds don't bother them and they don't really care if the fruit is small–they'll just eat two or three. But they do demand flavor.

Another obvious difference between backyard and commercial orcharding is tree size and spacing. Commercial growers plant trees 12-18 feet apart with 18-foot roadways between the rows. These wide spaces are for one reason–access by large trucks and tractors needed when farming dozens or hundreds of acres.

In my backyard orchard, the only access required is for me. Planting trees far apart would be a total waste of valuable gardening space. I plant most of my fruit trees in successive ripening clusters where several trees are planted in the same hole. An early, mid, and late ripening peach can be planted in the same amount of space as one large orchard peach tree. Successive ripening varieties allow me to harvest smaller amounts of quality tree-ripened fruit throughout the season instead of large quantities of fruit in a short period of time.

I also aggressively control tree size with summer pruning. I keep my trees about 8 feet tall so that all my orchard chores can be done from ground level. Choose a height that is manageable for you and every summer, bring trees back to the chosen size. In fall or winter, detail prune the trees, removing broken, dead or diseased wood and thinning out areas where growth is too thick or too heavy. At the same time, you can open up the center of the tree if you like.

There are many styles of pruning and they all work. Choose one that works for you and stick with it. The worst pruning decision is not to prune. I can easily prune, thin fruit or harvest an 8-foot tall tree without a ladder or pole harvester. It's also easy to cover with a bird net. (Try to put a bird net over a 20 foot plum tree.)

Planning a Backyard Orchard

Edible ornamentals are all the rage. These are plants that produce an edible crop and offer high ornamental value in the landscape. When planning your backyard orchard, always consider the six "Fs": form, function, flowers, fragrance, foliage and fruit.

Consider form when you want to create focal points and structure. Consider function when using plants as espaliers, hedges, borders and screens. Consider flowers, for their beauty, color, season and fragrance for areas where you want subtle pleasant aromas. Consider foliage for areas where you want contrasting colors, like beautiful ambers, yellows and oranges of fall or the brilliant red spring growth of our new Spice Zee Necta Plum and our recently re-introduced Hollywood fruiting and flowering plum.

Last, but certainly not least, consider fruit. Plan a successive ripening garden of fruit varieties that will provide tree-ripened fresh fruit all year long. Consider stone and pome fruit varieties for spring, summer and fall harvesting. Figs and pomegranates are delicious, nutritious and easily shaped to any desired form. Plant an assortment of avocado, citrus and sub-tropical fruits for 12 months of harvest. And don't forget southern highbush blueberries for delicious fresh berries spring and summer.

It's also very important to understand your property's microclimates. Know your soil type. Is it heavy clay that stays wet or is it sandy and fast draining? Is it different in different areas? Understand hot spots and cold areas. Sun exposure is important. Some sub-tropical fruits may appreciate a half day of shade, where stone fruits and citrus want full sun. Do you have areas that stay wet and areas that are arid and dry? Try planting pomegranates where it's dry and hot and cane berries where the soil stays moist. Look for areas that are wind sheltered and frost free for tender tropical fruits and low, cold spots for stone and pome fruits that require adequate winter chill for full production.

Meeting an Orchard's Needs

Once you understand your microclimates, then you're ready to start placing plants where they will do best. The number one reason plants fail in our landscapes is lack of consideration of the plant's true needs.

Try to limit experiments, but don't be afraid to experiment. Variety is the spice of life and it's always fun and exciting to try new things. About 95 percent of my backyard orchard is planted with varieties I know, like and use. But every year I make it a point to try something new. My choice this winter is the newly released Bella Gold Pecotum.™ A Pecotum™ is an inter-specific hybrid of peach, apricot and plum crossed to bring out the best of all three.

Don't be intimidated by inter-specific breeding; this is NOT genetic modification. (No trout or moose genes are being added to your plums.) Inter-specific fruits are crosses of compatible varieties to combine their flavors, growth habits, disease resistance and adaptabilities. They are simply cross pollinations done in isolation so no additional pollen can taint or alter the cross. New inter-specifics then are monitored and tested for years to make sure the desired characteristics have been achieved. This is no different from what nature would have achieved via evolution over tens of thousands of years. We just speed up the process. Other inter-specifics are Apriums™, Cheriums™, Pluots™ and Necta-

plums™. (All are trademarks of Zaiger hybrids in Modesto.)

Equally important points to consider are mulching, irrigation and fertilization.

Mulching may be the single most important landscape practice. It does four important jobs. First, the surface temperature of mulched soil is 10 to 20 degrees cooler than unmulched soil. This allows feeder roots to function in the first few inches of soil where they take up moisture and nutrients more effectively and naturally. Second, a 2-4 inch layer of mulch makes better use of precious irrigation water by 50 percent. That can add up to big savings on water bills.

Third, mulching brings back microryzal activity, earthworms and beneficial insects and fungi that allow your landscape plants to take up nutrients in a more effective and natural manner. And lastly, a 2-4 inch layer of mulch will not allow weed seeds to germinate. That keeps your most tedious landscape chore to a minimum.

Irrigation management is simple: water when it's needed. Don't irrigate by timer unless you're willing to change it often to reflect seasons and landscape needs. Instead, use a system that irrigates by monitoring the soil's moisture content or a manual system you can activate by hand. When you do irrigate, irrigate thoroughly and let the soil go slightly dry in between irrigations.

Fertilizing should be done at least twice a year. I recommend once at the end of January (just before dormancy breaks), and once more about the end of May to maintain nutrient levels for the summer. (The requirements of potted plants are different. Nutrients leach more rapidly from containers, so feed lightly and frequently, about every 8 to 12 weeks.)

Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potash, like a 3-12-12, and with trace elements like zinc, iron and manganese. This type of fertilizer will keep vigor in check to keep pruning to a minimum and promote a strong, self supportive root system, as well as an increase in flowering and fruiting buds. Do not use high nitrogen fertilizers that stimulate lots of growth but little or no fruiting wood.

The basics are really common sense. First, grow varieties for flavor and that you and your family will enjoy eating. Second, control tree growth to a size that is easy to maintain and manage and grow trees in a form that works into your landscape style. And third, plant multi-grafted trees and multi-planted clusters for successive ripening fruit all year long.

For more information on backyard orchard culture and local nurseries that carry the hybrids mentioned above, visit www.davewilson.com.

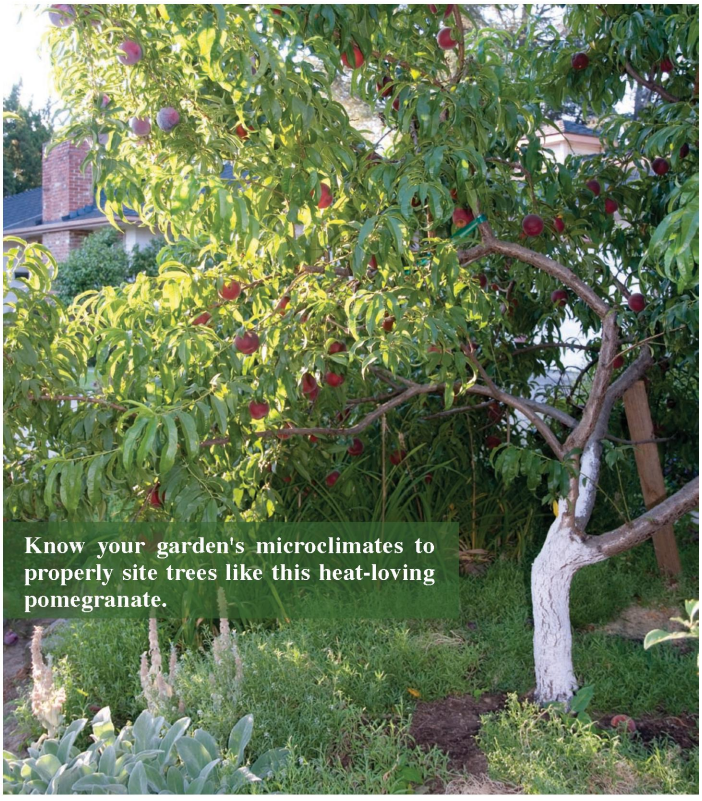
- Tom Spellman is the Southwest sales manager of Dave Wilson Nursery, one of California's largest growers of fruit trees. His backyard orchard is in Upland where he grows avocados, citrus, stone fruits, pome fruits and sub-tropical fruits. Tom can harvest fruit from his landscape every day of the year.

Prune fruit trees so they can be cared for and harvested without the use of ladders.

Photos: Courtesy of Dave Wilson Nursery

Tom Spellman with three fruit trees planted together to save space and provide successive harvests.

Bella Gold Peacotum is a peach-apricot-plum cross.

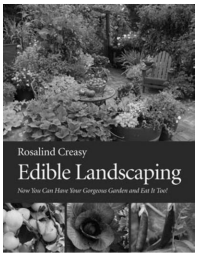


Know your garden's microclimates to properly site trees like this heat-loving pomegranate.

On the opposite side of Rosalind Creasy's "Plum Garden" (pictured on the cover) is her "Pomegranate Patio," which showcases a 'Utah Sweet' pomegranate. It sports red flowers in summer and yellow leaves in fall.

An Orchard in the Garden

Fruit and Nut Trees Blend Beautifully into Landscapes with Tasty Results



Editors Note: This is an excerpt from *Edible Landscaping* written by Rosalind Creasy and published by Sierra Club Books in 2010. This is an updated edition of Creasy's 1982 classic that popularized the concept of integrating edibles into the garden to create beautiful outdoor environments. Here Creasy, a Northern California garden writer, designer and photographer, shares design tips for using fruit and nut trees in the garden to add beauty as well as healthy produce.

Story and Photos by Rosalind Creasy

It's interesting to me how many people say that they envy me my house in the middle of an edible garden. No doubt that is partly because I can walk outside and pop ripe fruit right into my mouth for months at a time. While many gardeners enjoy lovely yards, I believe fruiting plants add certain aesthetics – a missing dimension – that no other plants can. … And this extra dimension can easily be part of yours.

Trees, shrubs and vines are the building blocks of the home landscape. In most American yards for the better part of the 20th century that meant non-fruiting, exotic ornamentals…People rarely included fruit and nut trees, not even adding a stunning blueberry bush to a shrub border or foundation planting…Fortunately, all that is changing.

Of course, the fruits themselves are often the great show-offs – deep blue grapes, lipstick-red strawberries, brilliant orange persimmons, and apples in hues from deep buttery yellow to dark burgundy – to name a few. … When it comes to color, also consider foliage … and the wonderful hues that so many leaves turn in autumn, from vibrant to subtle yellows and burgundies.

A split-rail fence planted with roses surrounds this side yard orchard. Plum, apple, and pear trees are underplanted with California poppies.

Designing with Fruits, Berries, and Nuts

Fruits, berries and nuts run the gamut of plant types – trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous perennials and annuals – and you can choose varieties suitable for your climate as you think about incorporating them into your home landscape.

Trees

Trees hold a special place in all our minds. In fact, when I drive by or revisit a client's garden, I can remember every tree I selected and where it came from. … By its very stature, a single tree has the power to be a tone-setting front yard focal point. Plant trees in clusters or in artful rows, such as for an allee, and they become the foundations of your landscape design. Utilize trees to divide the space into outdoor "rooms" for privacy, entertaining, and play.

Most homeowners start their wish list with the most familiar, such as pears, apples, and walnuts, but there are dozens to consider. If you like a pear tree, consider Asian pears. Or how about a hedge comprising an early-ripening apple or two, a late variety and one that stores well for winter?

When I design a landscape, I select the trees first, since they are the most substantial plants. For instance, with just two or three fruit trees, I can create a screen to block an unwanted view, such as a neighbor's garage. … I also could use these trees as the cornerstone for a children's fantasy play area, replete with swing and playhouse.

Trees are so versatile. Encircling an area with trees can create a space for people to meditate or entertain. Many fruit trees are suppler than you realize; some can be trained like vines. Consider training two figs up and over what would ordinarily be a grape arbor. I have long fantasized about having an arbor over my front walk trained with Asian persimmons, perhaps with a climbing rose at the very front. Imagine the color in fall.

Home Orchards

For the second half of the 20th century, most commercial fruit or nut orchards were planted in long parallel rows with what orchardists call a "clean floor" – bare dirt – so tractors, spraying and pruning rigs, and harvest trucks could drive up and down the rows…. In the early 21st century, a combination of events including the consumer demand for more organics, led orchardists … back to the more sustainable practices of old.

Today's home fruit growers can adopt a sustainable model by clustering plants that needs similar care. Instead of long, boring

rows, there are dozens of imaginative ways to plant using sound design principles so that fruit or nut trees become an exciting part of the landscape. For example, create a strong line by planting a neat row of different fruit trees across the back of the yard or along the driveway. To establish more of a sense of place, front the row with a low hedge, say, dwarf boxwood or rosemary, to define the area better. Or surround the trees with a rustic fence covered with shrub roses for color and underplant with wildflowers to attract beneficial insects. Picture dwarf fruit trees in raised planters on the perimeter of a patio with gravel walks between them; it is a charming outdoor "room," with the trees providing some privacy.

Shrubs

… As productive and showy as grape, kiwi and subshrubs are, large shrubs are the workhorses of the home landscape. Growing from 10 to 20 feet tall, elderberry [and] pomegranate are deciduous. Fairly easy to maintain, these multistemmed plants are primarily vase shaped, requiring only an annual pruning to remove deadwood, renew the plant or maintain a pleasing shape, and keep them tidy. Such productive beauties can screen a neighbor's camper or garage and delineate property boundaries.

…Make a hedgerow for native and migratory birds by planting enough for humans and critters, or line a driveway to create a welcome colorful entry. Try your hand at training them as small trees. However you treat them, large shrubs will provide an abundance of treats for you and local wildlife.

Vines

Woody vines add their own unique twist to a landscape. The most versatile are grape and kiwi.

Kiwi plants are long robust vines that need the strong support of a permanent trellis or arbor. Female vines can spread from 10 to 20 feet. Keep the male vine smaller by pruning it back after it flowers. Cover a patio or breeze way with the large, dramatic female vines. It's heavenly to look up at the flowers and fruits hanging down – easy picking too. …

Grapevines are more versatile in the landscape than kiwi vines. A woody grapevine can grow 20 feet to cover a huge arbor, yet a talented pruner can train the grape as a compact, 6-foot-tall stand alone weeping tree. Train grapevines on wires in either a single or double cordon (arms) to serve as a screen or decorative fence substitute. An ever growing number of homeowners are discovering that they can train parallel rows of grapes in the cordon manner for a small vineyard – a delightful way to landscape a part of the yard. …Plant poppies and other wildflowers between rows to attract beneficial insects and add a whimsical touch.

Herbaceous Plants

Herbaceous plants – annual or perennial – have fleshy (not woody) above ground parts. Some very popular herbaceous fruits are melons and strawberries.

Melons need warm temperatures to crop well. As a rule they are long vining plants with rich green, heart-shaped leaves. Train them to grow on a decorative trellis or to cascade over a retaining wall or the sides of a large planter. Consider compact bush varieties when you want a super-productive flower border; alternate them with bush squash and a colorful mix of zinnias.

Nothing is quite so eye-catching as a strawberry plant or two with dangling red fruits in hanging baskets, large containers, or raised planters. With their deep green leaves and small white or pink flowers, strawberries are quite fetching. … Alpine strawberries may be lesser known, but they are more versatile than garden strawberries landscaping-wise. With no runners, Alpines remain neat looking when planted near a lawn or walkway. Smaller more intensely flavored fruits last longer on the plants than garden strawberries. Both flowers and fruits sit above light green foliage in a truly ornamental fashion. Plus they tolerate light shade. …

Tropicals and other tender edibles

[In San Diego]…there are dozens of tropical and sub-tropical fruits to include in the landscape. Highly productive papaya, banana and plantain grow from 10 to 20 feet tall. Cluster these iconic plants in large beds near patios and pools to appreciate their sculptural leaves rustling in the breeze, softening the edges of the day. Drape the fleshy vines of the epiphytic dragon fruit over a trellis and position it so that its enticingly fragrant nighttime blooms fill a lanai. Combine them with edible ginger and lemongrass to enhance your kitchen repertoire.

Many fruits grow well in containers - strawberries and blueberries in particular. Strawberry fruits can hang down over the sides, thus avoiding slugs and rot diseases. Plant blueberries in a container with acid potting soil mix.

Got Lizards? - Fight Fruit Fright

By Robin Rivet

Alligator lizard on the hunt

Photo: Robin Rivet

Lady beetle larva consuming an aphid

Fear of fruiting trees often stems from concerns that you might have to deal with litter and critters - maybe lots of them. Will rodents and mammals help themselves in your home orchard in the dark of night? Will fruit litter the ground because you cannot pick it fast enough? What if frost ruins your citrus crop and there is no harvest

Do not worry. If you have lived right, some grandparent, aunt, neighbor or local farmer once offered you a peach so succulent and sweet that no candy could ever compete. Growing backyard fruit is worth it, and there are simple solutions to these and other nuisances, most of which involve learning to enjoy nature more and worry less.

My experience suggests that fruit trees are amazingly forgiving. If you already tackle summer zucchini or pole beans, managing low-care fruit trees like avocado, citrus or persimmon actually is much easier, plus you don't have to replant every year Pomegranates, jujubes and figs adapt well to dry San Diego summers, do not sulk in the hot sun and require minimal seasonal care. If you've nurtured a tomato or two, you have the gardening skills to take on stone fruits like plums, peaches and apricots. Can you pluck the proper canes out of climbing rosebushes? If so, pruning grapes would be a cinch especially since they lack those nasty thorns. My black Venus Seedless grape vine last year produced more than 100 pounds of tasty morsels. It is easy to grow abundant fruit at home.

My secret to growing food painlessly is not to fuss and to try to enjoy all wildlife. With plenty of fruit to share, I captured scarab beetles dangling off a branch of my fig tree. So-called "fig beetles" are conspicuous San Diego visitors that love figs. However, have you ever looked closely at one. Their bold iridescent green exoskeletons have a natural beauty. Appreciating that adjusts your perspective.

When it comes to dealing with almost any bug, choose to nurture a wildlife habitat rather than a closet full of pesticides. A panicked client once called to report her apple tree was crawling with "worms." "What should I spray?" she wondered. With a little probing, I realized her infestation was nothing more than an onslaught of lady beetle larvae. To the unfamiliar eye, they might look menacing; but they were actually cleaning her tree of some troublesome plant-sucking *Homoptera*, probably aphids. The dilemma is you cannot keep predatory "good bugs" around for long if there is nothing for them to eat. Inevitably, this process sometimes distresses humans.

Lady Beetle photo above: Sanjay Acharya
GFDL: Mountain View, California Aug 2006

Maintaining a few tubular flowering perennials to lure hummingbirds adds a huge weapon to your arsenal limiting the proliferation of fruit-damaging insect pests. In our La Mesa orchard, we grow 70 or so fruiting plants, mostly trees. We use no pesticides, only mulches, hand watering and tree-washing, species-specific pruning and low toxicity fertilizers. We also accumulate rock piles for lizard domains and many broadleaf evergreen trees for hummingbird nesting sites. These two fauna consume vast quantities of undesirable insects. Keep their prey pest-free so you do not poison your helpful predators.

Do you wonder about mammals? Skunks eat grubs, and actually are only a problem when they land in your "have-a-heart" trap. (However, you should know two things. One, skunks do not mind a brief trip in a trap, if covered with a blanket; but two, it is illegal to move native wildlife without permission.)

Thwarting gophers on the other hand, takes some wisdom. They adore chewing roots, so mechanical barriers like glass shards placed in a tree-planting hole are quite effective. So are Macabee traps. For rats, an almond smeared with peanut butter will lure persistent fruit-eating rodents into inexpensive mechanical traps.

Finally, when I hear about humans stealing home fruit, I pause. Most fruit trees will eventually produce more than you use. If you cannot deal with the abundance, contact your local food bank, school, or senior gleaner's organization, or parcel it out to your neighbors. When you share excess avocados in summer, you may be surprised to receive someone else's abundant winter citrus. Give and ye shall receive. This is true ecology at work! Enjoy it!

– Robin Rivet is a Master Gardener and a passionate arborist, conservationist and rare fruit grower.

Photo: Robin Rivet

Allen's Hummingbird on *Eriobotrya japonica* (Fruiting Loquat Tree)

Exotic Weevil Threatens Local Palms

By Vincent Lazaneo

The Red Palm Weevil (RPW), *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is the most destructive insect pest of palms in the world. In August 2010, this weevil was found for the first time in the United States in a dying Canary Island date palm at a residence in Laguna Beach. Agriculture officials visually surveyed palms in the surrounding area and set out pheromone traps to determine the extent of the infestation. Steps will be taken to try to eradicate the infestation.

Establishment of RPW in Southern California would threaten the state's 30 million dollar date palm industry and many ornamental palms planted in landscapes throughout Southern California. The weevil's primary hosts are palms including some common, local landscape species: queen palm, fishtail palm, Canary Island date palm, Chinese windmill palm and Mexican fan palm (the California fan palm is reported to be resistant to the pest). Secondary hosts include American agave and sugarcane.

Residents of San Diego County who have landscape palms should watch for signs of RPW and report possible infestations to the County Agriculture Dept. at 858-694-2739. When you have a palm trimmed, ask the arborist to inspect the tree's crown for signs of damage. Early Red Palm Weevil infestations can be difficult to detect in large palms in the landscape unless access to the actively growing portions can be attained.

Symptoms: It is important that arborists and individuals working in palm canopies be vigilant for signs of larval mines and frass (excrement) in leaf bases in the central growing point of the palm in order to detect signs of early infestation. Larval damage to leaf bases anywhere in the canopy revealed by routine trimming may also be a sign of feeding by young RPW larvae. Dieback in the apical (newest, uppermost, or center) leaves in the canopy is a common symptom of larval damage to the meristem tissue and should be investigated for RPW. Frass accumulating at points of injury or at the base of offshoots may also appear.

Palms damaged by RPW can exhibit the following symptoms:

- Presence of tunnels on the trunk or on the base of fronds
- Gnawing sounds caused by larval feeding in infested palms
- Oozing of viscous fluid from larval tunnels
- Appearance of chewed plant material (frass) at the entrance of feeding tunnels and a distinctive fermented odor
- Empty pupal cases and the bodies of adult weevils near heavily infested trees
- Breaking of the palm trunk or toppling of the crown

Identification: Adult Red Palm Weevils are very large beetles, attaining body lengths of 1.4 -1.6 inches. The weevils have a long, slender snout which the female uses to penetrate palm tissue and create access wounds in which eggs are deposited.

Coloration in RPW is extremely variable. Adult weevils are predominately reddish-brown in the most typical form. The Red Palm Weevils collected in Laguna Beach have displayed a distinct "red striped" coloration which consists of the dorsal (top side) surfaces appearing uniformly dark brown to black, with a single, contrasting red stripe running the length of the pronotum (top, middle surface of the body between the head and abdomen). Visit www.cisr.ucr.edu to see photos. Consequently, there are two different color types or color morphs for RPW; adults that are predominantly reddish in color, and the others that are dark with a red streak, like the Laguna Beach specimens.

The Red Palm Weevil, like other beetles, develops through complete metamorphosis (four life stages), with larvae and pupae developing within the trunk and apical growth tissues of the palm. Larvae are legless grubs with the body color uniformly pale yellow with a brown head. They may attain lengths greater than two inches. The larvae feed within the soft tissues of the growing tip (meristem) or leaf bases creating frass filled mines, enlarging and penetrating deep within the upper trunk areas as the larvae mature. Mature larvae construct a pupal chamber or cocoon made up of coarse palm fibers in which they pupate for approximately three to four weeks. The cocoons are located within the damaged tissue of the palm.

Life Cycle: To lay eggs, females use their long snout, or rostrum, to chew a hole into palm tissue. Eggs are then laid into this hole. Eggs may also be laid in wounds, cracks, and crevices in the trunk, from the collar region near the roots, up to the base of frond petioles and axils near the crown of the palm. Females can lay 58-531 eggs which hatch in about 1-6 days.

Larvae that hatch from eggs, feed on the surrounding palm tissue and bore their way into the center of the palm. The larvae form tunnels as they feed which contain frass (excrement and chewed fibers that have a highly distinctive odor) and plant sap. Larvae may pass through 3-7 instars or stages that may last for about two months before the pupal stage is reached. Larvae pupate inside cocoons in the palm trunk, or in concealed places at the base of palm fronds. The pupal stage may last from 11-45 days. The entire life cycle, egg to adult, can take 45-139 days.

Adult Red Palm Weevils emerge from cocoons and live for 2-3 months feeding on palms, and going through several cycles of mating and egg laying before dying. Females can lay eggs for 8-10 weeks.

The adult weevils are strong flyers. They can fly up to a half a mile at a time and can move up to four miles in 3-5 days. RPW has also been transported very long distances through the international trade in live palms. It can easily be moved as eggs, larvae or pupae, hidden in infested palms. RPW is native to Southeast Asia and is widespread in the region. The weevil has also spread to Africa, the Middle East, Southern Europe, Australia and other South Sea Islands and Aruba in the Caribbean.

*–**Vincent Lazaneo** is Urban Horticulture Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension. He helped found the San Diego County Master Gardener Association and serves as its advisor. He is the author of numerous articles in* California Garden *and other publications.*

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for January and February 2011

January Events

JANUARY 3

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
George Speer will discuss the use of glass containers at this month's program "Glass with Class".
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/events-calendar*

JANUARY 4

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104;
7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

JANUARY 5

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse, 1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: Culture Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room at the North County Fair, Escondido
More information: Sandi Lord, 760-727-7614

JANUARY 7

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Field trip to Dos Gringos and bouquet design presentation.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Fun and creative floral design will be demonstrated by George Speer.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

JANUARY 8

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sdcss.net*

JANUARY 9

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m., classes begin at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

JANUARY 10

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: New meeting site will be on the web site.
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

JANUARY 11

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Learn about growing beautiful roses in Valley Center with Linda Gluckman, president of the Del Mar Rose Society.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

JANUARY 12

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bonita Valley Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Mo Price from Protea and More will give practical advice about plants that thrive in our Mediterranean climate.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"Explore the Wild Animal Park Botanically" with Cary Sharp.
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Master Gardener Karan Greenwald talks about tomatoes.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 17025 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe
More information: *www.rsfgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

JANUARY 13

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

JANUARY 15

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: Louise Ortega, 760-598-6571

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Orchid show and plant sale
When: Saturday Noon–5:00 p.m.;
Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

JANUARY 17

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

JANUARY 18

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Patty Sallume from Walter Andersen Nursery will discuss the proper planting and care of hydrangeas.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Anne Caprioglio, 858-454-6227

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

JANUARY 19

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Dean Turney, 760-942-1919

JANUARY 20

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
Tom Jesch will demonstrate his technique to create bonsai-styled succulents.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-429-6198

JANUARY 22

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553;
http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html

JANUARY 24

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

JANUARY 25

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Australian plants for a Mediterranean climate with Mo Price.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Ln., Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location
More information: 619-583-8008

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

JANUARY 26

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
Wafu Kai School demonstration by Grand Master Kyoko Womer and a program from William S. Chandler, consultant for decorative arts.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Meeting
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036, *http://sdgc.klnumicro.com*

JANUARY 27

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"Contemporary Flower Arranging" with Kathryn Farley.
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Meeting
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-435-9712

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
Kathryn Wadsworth and David Deardorff will answer "What's Wrong With My Plant? And How Do I Fix It?"
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117;
www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com

JANUARY 31

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Winter board and annual meeting. Plus Bert Kersey presents "The Birds of San Diego."
When: 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting; 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting/Lunch/Program
Lunch: $30, reservations required
Where: Wilson Creek Winery, 35960 Rancho California Rd., Temecula
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict*

February Events

FEBRUARY 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

FEBRUARY 2

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse, 1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

FEBRUARY 4

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
CGC members will present art terrariums and garden origami.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Environmentalist Shelly Grossman will discuss the many uses of gray water.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

FEBRUARY 5

■ **TWO DAYS**

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW
When: Saturday Noon--4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.--4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Dean Turney, 760-942-1919

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503, *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

FEBRUARY 6

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-689-0957

FEBRUARY 7

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Cuyamaca College floral design instructor Susan Butler will address the group.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/events-calendar*

FEBRUARY 8

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

FEBRUARY 9

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Social, 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Valley Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585

FEBRUARY 9 continued

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Jeff Rossman will discuss the benefits of local organic produce, perform a cooking demonstration and autograph copies of "From Terra's Table."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
A visit to Patrick Anderson's Mediterranean garden.
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Ornamental grass varieties will be discussed by Randy Crowe.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 17025 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe
More information: *www.rsfgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San DiegoMore information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

FEBRUARY 10

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

FEBRUARY 12

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sdcss.net*

FEBRUARY 13

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.; classes begin at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Recital Hall (near the Aerospace Museum), Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

FEBRUARY 14

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: New meeting site will be listed on the web site.
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

FEBRUARY 15

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"The Flower Frog Frenzy" with Pat Clayes.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Anne Caprioglio, 858-454-6227

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

FEBRUARY 16

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Dean Turney, 760-942-1919

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
Former SDFA president Nancy Carol Carter will present "Kate Sessions and the Arts & Crafts Garden."
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfloral.org*

FEBRUARY 17

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
This month's trip will be to the famous Silvermink Protea Ranch.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-429-6198

FEBRUARY 19

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: Louise Ortega, 760-598-6571

FEBRUARY 21

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

FEBRUARY 22

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"Removing Grass and Replacing It with Drought-Tolerant Plants" with Doug Kalal.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location
More information: 619-583-8008

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-571-6137

FEBRUARY 23

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
This month's demonstration and workshop are of the Ichiyo School.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Meeting
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036, *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

FEBRUARY 24

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Demonstration luncheon.
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Meeting
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-435-9712

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
Guests are welcome to hear Gerard Toh, AIFD, present "An Echo in Bloom."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com*

FEBRUARY 26

■ TWO DAYS
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SHOW AND BAZAAR
When: Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-7850

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553; *http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html*

FEBRUARY 28

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

Gardening Classes

Walter Andersen Nursery, Pt. Loma Gardening Class
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

Walter Andersen Nursery, Poway Gardening Class
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

Water Conservation Garden Classes
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

San Diego Botanic Garden Tour
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden *formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens.* No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

San Diego Botanic Garden: Children's Events
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

Water Conservation Garden Tour
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*

CNPS Native Plant Walk
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego More information: *www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.shtml*, (858) 581-9959

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

San Diego Zoo
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.niwa.org*

Balboa Park Offshoot Tours
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

Balboa Park Interpretive Walks
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneer Walks
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

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Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces.
   To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2011

February 16

April 12

June 14

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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President: Lisa Lomax
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www.chirp.org

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P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92178-0188
619-435-8079
www.coronadofloralassoc.org

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Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
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Information: 949-244-2011
www.hortensemillergarden.org

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JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Kanzawa
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
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P. O. Box 230005
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760-436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

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858-672-2454
www.bernardogardeners.org

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15165 Susita Street
San Diego, CA 92129-1232
619-858-451-6764

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Publicity: Mary Hassing
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Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-494-7774
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

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P. O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
619-421-6072

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Coronado, CA 92118
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619-583-8008
Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location

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IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
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SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
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http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

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CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
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467 Fulvia Street
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djsj21643@aol.com

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SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
President: Gary Colby
11375 Alberni Court
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Sandra Chapin
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
858-485-5414
www.sandiegoepi.com

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
President: Kathie Russell
4780 Glen Street
La Mesa, CA 91941-5466
619-464-2609
www.sdfern.com

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER
Chair: Tom Del Hotal
2602 69th Street
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
619-454-2628
www.crfgsandiego.org

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
President: Melissa Worton
3722 Tanner Lane
San Diego, CA 92111
858-472-0540
www.sdgeranium.org

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Co-Presidents: Judy Dunning & Cindy Christ
200 Highline Trail
El Cajon, CA 92021-4082
619-579-0222
www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Dave Flietner
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
858-268-3789
www.cnpssd.org

ORCHID

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
President: Dr. Gilbert J. Ho
1415 Sapphire Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92011
760-604-4687
www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
President: David Brown
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176-1020
619-294-5925
www.sdorchids.com

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
President: Roland Dubuc
P. O. Box 20553, El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
760-731-6188
www.socalplumeriasociety.com

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
President: Maggi Jensen
3429 Quimby St.,
San Diego, CA 92106
619-224-6346
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com

HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO
Coordinators:
Jack and Mary Ann Olson
Contact: Thea Gurns
theagurns@sbcglobal.net

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
President: Robert Martin, Jr.
2609 Canyon Crest Dr.
Escondido, CA 92027
760-317-5894
www.sdrosesociety.org

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
President: Ed Simpson
1302 Avocado Rd., Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
760-436-3704
www.scwatergarden.org

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In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in January and February. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit *www.sdfarmbureau.org*.)

January: Beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, grapefruit, guavas, herbs, kale, kiwi, kumquats, lemons, lettuce, limes, Macadamia nuts, Navel oranges, peas, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, snap peas, spinach, squash, tangelos, tangerines, turnips and various cut flowers.

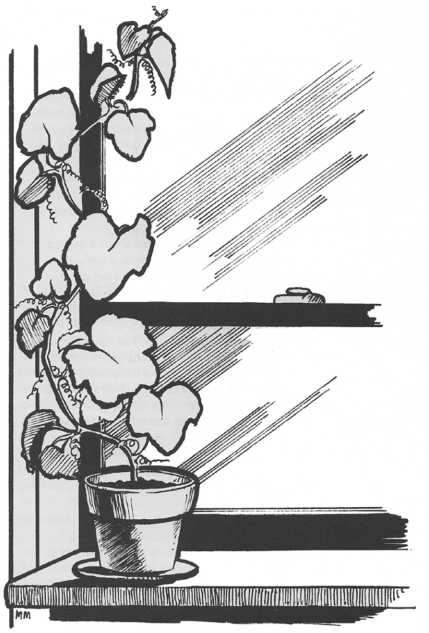
February: Artichokes, asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, grapefruit, guavas, herbs, kale, kiwi, kumquats, lemons, lettuce, limes, Navel oranges, peas, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, snap peas, spinach, squash, strawberries, tangelos, tangerines, turnips and various cut flowers.

Kumquats

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Contact Us! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *sdfloral@gmail.com* or Denise Thompson at *EarthD@san.rr.com* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, send to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Mar./Apr. 2011 issue is January 5, 2011; the deadline for the May/June 2011 issue is March 5, 2011.

There is a surprise behind the title of this article. While this goal is not mentioned, the piece offers another means for helping children connect with natural food sources and gardening, but has appeal for everyone who has not tried "after-dinner" propagation. –Nancy Carol Carter



May-June 1984
After-Dinner Gardening

By Dewey Debutts Thaisz

["After-dinner gardening" means saving seeds from the food you have just eaten] and planting them to yield inexpensive and rewarding indoor or outdoor plants.

Not many of us even think about the scores of free indoor plants we throw away in one month. Everyone knows that the delicious avocado contains a seed that readily grows into a lush, green, long-leaved tree suitable for the most fastidious home décor. But the indoor gardener with a sense of adventure, a little patience and a hearty inquisitive appetite can grow a large collection of plants from the seeds and shoots of pineapples, carrots, yams, Jerusalem artichokes, kiwi fruit, dates, grapes, bananas, and the entire citrus family; not to mention less common supermarket items such as sugar cane, pomegranates, loquats, litchi nuts, mangoes, and many more. Let us consider just a few of the interesting meal tidbits that can be turned into indoor garden plants.

The next time you buy grapes save the seeds [and plant] in a mix of sterile soil. Give the seeds several weeks to germinate, stakes to climb on, and you will have 10-foot plants the first season. They climb quickly and gracefully and can be trained to edge the window frame with a green leafy border. Most indoor plants bear little or no fruit due to their confinement in pots and the indoor environment, so do not expect to be bottling your own wine unless you transfer your grape plants to a warm outdoor garden in full sun.

The pineapple, which is both attractive and unusual, is another easy plant for the after-dinner garden. Select a pineapple with a full crown from the produce department. Lop the crown off, leaving about 1 inch of the fruit and plant the vegetative portion in a shallow pot containing acidic soil. Coffee grounds supply the acid necessary in a mixture of three-fourths packaged soil and one-fourth used coffee grounds. The pineapple is in the bromeliad family, which has a minimal root system, and in the wild takes most of its nourishment from the air through its leaves. However, container grown plants need to be fertilized frequently. Drench the entire plant with one-half strength fertilizer. Water only when the plant gets good and dry; then give it a good drenching. When firmly rooted, new shoots or aerial suckers appear on the parent plant. After about six new leaves have developed, the new growth may be removed to start a new plant.

Another unusual indoor plant is the papaya, reputed to be one of the easiest of all tropical plants to grow. The fruit contains hundreds of seeds, each wrapped with an aril, or its own blanket, to preserve it from deterioration until conditions are proper for germinating. Remove the aril by rubbing a handful of seeds on a screen under running water or squeezing the seeds slightly off center between the fingers to make the seed pop out of its container. The latter method slightly resembles the technique used to "shoot" watermelon seeds at an unsuspecting target.

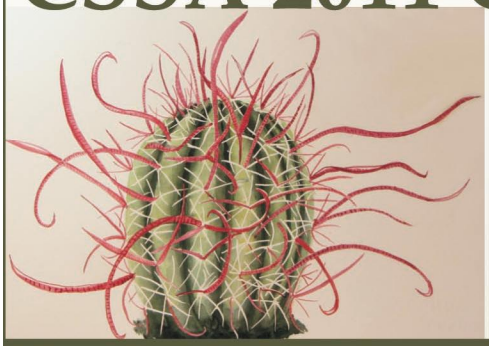
After the aril has been removed by the method of your choice, place the seeds in a shallow pan on partially soaked cheesecloth and cover the pan with plastic food wrap. The seeds will start sprouting in one to six weeks and should be transferred immediately to a clay pot with a rich, loose soil. The fine roots are very sensitive to standing water and will rot within 48 hours, so a loose, fast draining soil in a porous clay pot to improve aeration has proven to work best. Give the seedling papaya no more than one hour of direct sunlight a day but lots of diffused light. After it reaches about 3 inches in height, it requires an exceptional amount of direct sunlight.

. . . From these few examples, you can see that after-dinner gardening is a rewarding and economical way to turn kitchen wastes into a living room conversation piece. Start now to plant those seeds that you normally throw away. You will soon have an after-dinner garden that you and your friends will enjoy.

Illustration by Marj Mastro

Mark your calendar now!

CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011

Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley

San Diego, California

Watch for future updates

www.cssainc.org

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Debra Baldwin
Dr. Rudi Dorsch
Tom Glavich
Andrew Hankey
Tom Knapik
Myron Kimnach – Banquet
Julia Etter/Martin Kristen
Marlon Machado
Todd Masilko
Dr. Matt Opel
Jackie Poole
Guillermo Rivera
Gideon Smith
Karen Zimmerman

San Diego Camellia Society

Invite you to attend our 2010–2011 Seasonal Events

Annual Camellia Show

February 5th & 6th, 2011

Saturday 1p.m- 4p.m Sunday 9a.m- 4p.m

Plants for Sale Saturday & Sunday

Meeting With Tom Nuccio

February 16, 2011

7p.m, at our scheduled meeting

Come and listen to this world renown expert on camellia care and cultivation. View spectacular camellias from Nuccio's Nursery and learn to love this beautiful species of plant.

Scheduled Meetings

- January 19, 2011
- February 16, 2011
- March 16, 2011
- April 20, 2011

All meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm, in Room 101 of the Casa Del Prado Building, in Balboa Park.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 0084-020)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, CA 92101-1684

PERIODICALS POSTAGE

Coastal Sage Gardening
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Landscape Blueprints
Irrigation Systems
Soil Analysis
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Soil Amending
Composting/Fertilizing
Calif. Landscape Contractor's # 920677
Gardener's Apprentice Program - Wanted Mentors/Students

Welcome to the new year 2011. It is the time of year for appreciation and change. Go out into your garden and see all of the wonder that you have created. Creating the most beautiful place on the earth is what we acheive over and over again. It is that bubble of time and wonder where nature lifts us. It could be our focusing on the fragrance of a rose or a little lizard eyeing us. It could be viewing the whole garden as the rising sun beams through colorful clouds. Sit and imagine ways to make the garden more magical for the heart.

-John Noble